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THE
PLAYS
OF
WILLIAM SHAKSPEARE.

Vol. VII.

THE

PLAYS

OF

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

VOL. VII.

T H E
P L A Y S

O F

WILLIAM SHAKSPEARE.

VOLUME the SEVENTH.

CONTAINING

KING RICHARD III.

KING HENRY VIII.

CORIOLANUS.

L O N D O N,

Printed for C. Bathurst, W. Strahan, J. F. and C. Rivington,
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THE

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WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

VOLUME THE SEVENTH

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KING RICHARD III.

KING HENRY VIII.

CO. ILLINOIS.

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RICHARD III.

VOL. VII.

B

Per-

Persons Represented.

King Edward IV.

Edward, *Prince of Wales, afterwards* Edward V. } *Sons to Edward IV.*

Richard, *Duke of York,*

George, *Duke of Clarence, Brother to Edward IV.*

A young Son of Clarence.

Richard, *Duke of Gloster, Brother to Edward IV. afterwards King Richard III.*

Cardinal Bouchier, *Archbishop of Canterbury.*

Archbishop of York.

Bishop of Ely.

Duke of Buckingham.

Duke of Norfolk. Earl of Surrey.

Earl Rivers, brother to K. Edwards's Queen.

Marquis of Dorset, } *her sons.*

Lord Grey.

Earl of Richmond, afterwards King Henry VII.

Lord Hastings.

Sir Thomas Vaughan.

Sir Richard Ratcliff.

Lord Lovel.

Sir William Catesby.

Sir James Tyrrel.

Lord Stanley.

Earl of Oxford.

Sir James Blount.

Sir Walter Herbert.

Sir Robert Brakenbury, Lieutenant of the Tower.

Christopher Urswick, a Priest. Another Priest.

Lord Mayor.

Elizabeth, Queen of Edward IV.

Queen Margaret, Widow of Henry VI.

Anne, Widow of Edward Prince of Wales, Son to Henry VI. afterwards married to the Duke of Gloster.

Dutcheſs of York, Mother to Edward IV. Clarence, and Richard III.

Sheriff, Pursuivant, Scrivener, Citizens, Ghosts, Soldiers, and other Attendants.

L I F E and D E A T H.
O F
KING RICHARD III.

A C T I. S C E N E I.

England.

London. A Street.

Enter Richard Duke of Gloster.

Glo. Now is the winter of our discontent
Made glorious summer by this sun of York^a;

And

^a *Life and Death of King Richard III.]* This tragedy, though it is called the Life and Death of this prince, comprizes, at most, but the last eight years of his time; for it opens with George duke of Clarence being clapped up in the Tower, which happened in the beginning of the year 1477; and closes with the death of Richard at Bosworthfield, which battle was fought on the 22d of August, in the year 1485. THEOBALD.

It appears that several dramas on the present subject had been written before Shakespeare attempted it. See the notes at the conclusion of this play, which was first enter'd at Stationers' Hall by Andrew Wise, Oct. 20, 1597, under the title of *The Tragedie of King Richard the Third, with the Death of the Duke of Clarence*. Before this, viz. Aug. 15th, 1586, was entered, *A Tragical report of King Richard the Third, a Ballad*. It may be necessary to remark that the words, *song, ballad, book, enterlude* and *play*, were often synonymously used. STEEVENS.

² ——— *this sun of York;*] Alluding to the cognizance of Edward IV. which was a *sun*, in memory of the *three suns*, which are said to have appeared at the battle which he gained over the Lancastrians at Mortimer's Cross.

4 KING RICHARD III.

And all the clouds, that low'd upon our house,
 In the deep bosom of the ocean bury'd.
 Now are our brows bound with victorious wreaths;
 Our bruised arms hung up for monuments;
 Our stern alarums chang'd to merry meetings,³
 Our dreadful marches to delightful measures.
 Grim-visag'd war hath smooth'd his wrinkled front;
 And now,—instead of mounting barbed steeds⁴,
 To

So, in Drayton's *Miseries of Queen Margaret*:

“ Three suns were seen that instant to appear,
 “ Which soon again shut themselves up in one,
 “ Ready to buckle as the armies were,
 “ Which this brave duke took to himself alone &c.”

Again, in the 22d Song of the *Polyolbion*:

“ And thankful to high heaven which of his cause had
 care,
 “ Three suns for his device still in his ensign bare.”

Again, in the Wrighte's Play in the *Chester Collection*. M. S. Harl. 1013, the same prodigy is introduced as attending on a more solemn event:

“ That day was scene veramente
 “ Three sonnes in the firmament,
 “ And wonderly together went
 “ And torned into one.” STEEVENS.

³ — merry meetings,] So, in *The tragical Life and Death of King Richard the Third*, which is one of the metrical monologues in a collection entitled, *The Mirrour of Magistrates*. The first edition of it appeared in 1587, but the lines quoted on the present as well as future occasions throughout this play, are not found in any copy before that of 1610, so that the author was more probably indebted to Shakespeare than Shakespeare to him:

— the battles fought in fields before
 Were turn'd to meetings of sweet amitie;
 The war-god's thundring cannons dreadful rore,
 And rattling drum-sounds' warlike harmonie,
 To sweet-tun'd noise of pleasing minstrelsie.

God Mars laid by his lance, and tooke his lute,
 And turn'd his rugged frownes to smiling lookes;
 Instead of crimson fields, war's fatal fruit,
 He bath'd his limbes in Cypris warbling brooks,
 And set his thoughts upon her wanton lookes. STEEVENS.

⁴ — barbed steeds,] I. Haywarde, in his *Life and Raigne of Henry IV.* 1599, says,—The duke of Hereford came to the barriers, mounted upon a white courser, barbed with blew and green velvet, &c.
 So,

To fright the souls of fearful adversaries,—
 ' He capers nimbly in a lady's chamber,
 To the lascivious pleasing of a lute.
 But I,—that am not shap'd for sportive tricks,
 Nor made to court an amorous looking-glass;
 I, that am rudely stamp'd, and want love's ma-
 jesty,
 To strut before a wanton ambling nymph;
 I, that am curtail'd of this fair proportion,

So, in Jarvis Markham's *English Arcadia*, 1607 :

" —armed in a black armour, curiously damask'd with interwinding wreaths of cypress and ewe, his *barbe* upon his horse, all of black abrosetta, cut in broken hoops upon curled cypress." Again, in the 2d Part of *K. Edward IV.* by Heywood, 1626 :

" With *barbed* horse, and valiant armed foot."

Barbed, however, may be no more than a corruption of *barded*. *Equus bardatus*, in the Latin of the middle ages, was a horse adorned with military trappings. I have met with the word *barded* many times in our ancient chronicles and romances. An instance or two may suffice. " They mounted him surely upon a good and mighty courser, well *barded*, &c."

Hist. of Helyas Knight of the Swanne, bl. l. no date.

Again, in *Hall's Chronicle*, King Henry VIII. p. 45 :

" —appereilled in ryche armure, on a *barded* courser &c."

Again, in the *Miracles of Moses*, by Drayton :

" There floats the *bard* steed with his rider drown'd,

" Whose foot in his caparison is cast."

Again, in Warner's *Albion's England*, B. VIII. chap. 38 :

" For whether that he trots, or turns, or bounds his *barded* steed."

Again, in Barrett's *Alvearie*, or *Quadruple Dictionary*, 1580 :

" *Bardes* or trappers of horses. *Phalera*, Lat."

Again, Holinshed speaking of the preparations for the battle of Agincourt : " —to the intent that if the *barded* horses ran fiercely upon them, &c " Again, p. 802, he says, that *bards* and *trappers* had the same meaning.

It is observed in the *Turkish Spy*, that the German cuirassiers, though armed and *barbed*, man and horse, were not able to stand against the French cavalry. STEEVENS.

' *He capers*——] War *capers*. This is poetical, though a little harsh ; if it be York that capers, the antecedent is at such a distance, that it is almost forgotten, JOHNSON.

6 KING RICHARD III.

6 Cheated of feature by dissembling nature,
 Deform'd, unfinish'd, sent before my time
 Into this breathing world, scarce half made up,
 And that so lamely and unfashionably,
 That dogs bark at me, as I halt by them ;—
 Why I, in this weak piping time of peace,
 Have no delight to pass away the time ;
 Unless to spy my shadow in the sun,
 And descant on mine own deformity 7 :
 And therefore,—since I cannot prove a lover 8,
 To entertain these fair well-spoken days,—
 I am determined to prove a villain,
 And 9 hate the idle pleasures of these days.
 Plots have I laid, 1 inductions dangerous,
 By drunken prophecies, libels, and dreams,
 To set my brother Clarence, and the king,
 In deadly hate the one against the other :

6 *Cheated of feature by dissembling nature,*] By *dissembling* is not meant *hypocritical* nature, that pretends one thing and does another : but nature that puts together things of a dissimilar kind, as a brave soul and a deformed body. WARBURTON.

Dissembling is here put very licentiously for *fraudful, deceitful*.
 JOHNSON.

7 *And descant on mine own deformity :*] *Descant* is a term in music, signifying in general that kind of harmony wherein one part is broken and formed into a kind of paraphrase on the other. The propriety and elegance of the above figure, without such an idea of the nature of *descant*, could not be discerned.

Sir J. HAWKINS.

8 *And therefore, since I cannot prove a lover,*] Shakespeare very diligently inculcates, that the wickedness of Richard proceeded from his deformity, from the envy that rose at the comparison of his own person with others, and which incited him to disturb the pleasures that he could not partake. JOHNSON.

9 *And hate the idle pleasures—*] Perhaps we might read :

And bate the idle pleasures—— JOHNSON.

1 *—inductions dangerous,*] Preparations for mischief. The *induction* is preparatory to the action of the play. JOHNSON.

Marston has put this line, with little variation, into the mouth of Fame :

“ Plots ha’ you laid ? *inductions dangerous* ? ”

STEEVENS.

And

And, if king² Edward be as true and just,
As I am subtle, false, and treacherous,
This day should Clarence closely be mew'd up;
About a prophesy, which says—that G
Of Edward's heirs the murderer shall be.
Dive, thoughts, down to my soul! here Clarence
comes.

Enter Clarence guarded, and Brakenbury.

Brother, good day: What means this armed guard,
That waits upon your grace?

Clar. His majesty,
Tendering my person's safety, hath appointed
This conduct to convey me to the Tower.

Glo. Upon what cause?

Cl. Because my name is—George.

Glo. Alack, my lord, that fault is none of yours;
He should, for that, commit your godfathers:—
O, belike, his majesty hath some intent,
That you should be new christen'd in the Tower.
But what's the matter, Clarence? may I know?

Clar. Yea, Richard, when I know; for, I protest,
As yet I do not: But, as I can learn,
He hearkens after prophecies, and dreams;
And from the cross-row plucks the letter G,
And says—a wizard told him, that by G
His issue disinherited should be;
And, for my name of George begins with G,
It follows in his thought, that I am he:

² ——— *Edward be as true and just,*] i. e. as open-hearted and free from deceit. WARBURTON.

The meaning is only this; if Edward keeps his word.

JOHNSON.

³ *And, for my name of George begins with G, &c.*] So, in Nicols's *Tragical Life and Death of Richard III*:

“By that blind riddle of the letter G,

“George lost his life; it took effect in me.” STEEVENS.

8 KING RICHARD III.

These, as I learn, and such like toys as these ⁴,
Have mov'd his highness to commit me now.

Glo. Why, this it is, when men are rul'd by
women :—

'Tis not the king, that sends you to the Tower ;
My lady Grey his wife, Clarence, 'tis she,
That tempts him to this harsh extremity.
Was it not she, and that good man of worship,
Anthony Woodeville, her brother there,
That made him send lord Hastings to the Tower ;
From whence this present day he is deliver'd ?
We are not safe, Clarence, we are not safe.

Clar. By heaven, I think, there is no man secure,
But the queen's kindred, and night-walking heralds
That trudge betwixt the king and mistress Shore.
Heard you not, what an humble suppliant
Lord Hastings was to her for his delivery ?

Glo. ' Humbly complaining to her deity
Got my lord chamberlain his liberty.

I'll tell you what,—I think, it is our way,
If we will keep in favour with the king,
To be her men, and wear her livery :

⁶ The jealous o'er-worn widow, and herself,
Since that our brother dubb'd them gentlewomen,
Are mighty gossips in this monarchy.

Brak. I beseech your graces both to pardon me ;
His majesty hath straitly given in charge,
That no man shall have private conference,
Of what degree soever, with his brother.

Glo. Even so ? an please your worship, Brakenbury,
You may partake of any thing we say ;
We speak no treason, man ;—We say, the king
Is wise, and virtuous ; and his noble queen

⁴ — toys—] Fancies, freaks of imagination. JOHNSON.

⁵ Humbly complaining &c.] I think these two lines might be better given to Clarence. JOHNSON.

⁶ The jealous o'er-worn widow, and herself,] That is, the queen and Shore. JOHNSON.

Well struck in years⁷; fair, and not jealous :—
 We say, that Shore's wife hath a pretty foot,
 A cherry lip, a bonny eye, a passing pleasing tongue;
 That the queen's kindred are made gentle-folks :
 How say you, sir ? can you deny all this ?

Brak. With this, my lord, myself have nought
 to do.

Glo. Naught to do with mistress Shore ? I tell thee,
 fellow,

He that doth naught with her, excepting one,
 Were best to do it secretly, alone.

Brak. What one, my lord ?

Glo. Her husband, knave :—Would'st thou betray
 me ?

Brak. I beseech your grace to pardon me ; and,
 withal,

Forbear your conference with the noble duke.

Clar. We know thy charge, Brakenbury, and will
 obey.

Glo. We are the⁸ queen's abjects, and must obey.
 Brother, farewell : I will unto the king ;
 And whatsoe'er you will employ me in,—
 Were it, to call king Edward's widow—sister⁹,—
 I will

⁷ *Well struck in years* ;] This odd expression in our language
 was preceded by one as uncouth though of a similar kind.

⁸ *Well shot in years be seem'd &c.*] Spenser's *F. Queen*, B. V.
 c. vi : The meaning of neither is very obvious ; but as Mr. War-
 ton has observed in his Essay on the *Faery Queen*, by an imper-
 ceptible progression from one kindred sense to another, words at
 length obtain a meaning entirely foreign to their original etymo-
 logy. STEEVENS.

———*the queen's abjects*———] That is, not the queen's
subjects, whom she might protect, but her *abjects*, whom she drives
 away. JOHNSON.

⁹ *Were it to call king Edward's widow—sister,*] This is a very
 covert and subtle manner of insinuating treason. The natural
 expression would have been, *were it to call king Edward's wife,*
sister. I will solicit for you, though it should be at the expence
 of so much degradation and constraint, as to own the low-born
 wife of King Edward for a sister. But by slipping, as it were
 casually,

10 KING RICHARD III.

I will perform it, to enfranchise you.

Mean time, this deep disgrace in brotherhood,
Touches me deeper than you can imagine.

Clar. I know, it pleaseth neither of us well.

Glo. Well, your imprisonment shall not be long;
I will deliver you, or else lye for you :
Mean time, have patience.

Clar. I must perforce¹; farewell.

[*Exeunt Clarence and Brakenbury.*]

Glo. Go, tread the path that thou shalt ne'er return,
Simple, plain Clarence !—I do love thee so,
That I will shortly send thy soul to heaven,
If heaven will take the present at our hands.
But who comes here ? the new-deliver'd Hastings ?

Enter Hastings.

Hast. Good time of day unto my gracious lord

Glo. As much unto my good lord chamberlain !
Well are you welcome to this open air.
How hath your lordship brook'd imprisonment ?

Hast. With patience, noble lord, as prisoners must :
But I shall live, my lord, to give them thanks,
That were the cause of my imprisonment.

Glo. No doubt, no doubt ; and so shall Clarence
too ;

For they, that were your enemies, are his,
And have prevail'd as much on him, as you.

Hast. More pity, that the eagle should be mew'd²,
While

casually, widow, into the place of wife, he tempts Clarence
with an oblique proposal to kill the king. JOHNSON.

King Edward's widow is, I believe, only an expression of contempt, meaning the widow Grey, whom Edward had chosen for his queen. Gloster has already called her, *the jealous o'erworn widow*. STEEVENS.

¹ *I must perforce.*] Alluding to the proverb, "Patience perforce is a medicine for a mad dog." STEEVENS.

² — *should be mew'd,*] A *mew* was the place of confinement where a hawk was kept till he had moulted. So, in *Albumazar* :
"Stand

While kites and buzzards prey at liberty.

Glo. What news abroad ?

Hast. No news so bad abroad, as this at home ;—
The king is sickly, weak, and melancholy,
And his physicians fear him mightily.

Glo. Now, by saint Paul³, that news is bad indeed.
O, he hath kept an evil diet long,
And over-much consum'd his royal person ;
'Tis very grievous to be thought upon.
What, is he in his bed ?

Hast. He is.

Glo. Go you before, and I will follow you.

[*Exit Hastings.*]

He cannot live, I hope ; and must not die,
'Till George be pack'd with post-horse up to heaven.
I'll in, to urge his hatred more to Clarence,
With lies well steel'd with weighty arguments ;
And, if I fail not in my deep intent,
Clarence hath not another day to live :
Which done, God take king Edward to his mercy,
And leave the world for me to bustle in !
For then I'll marry Warwick's youngest daughter :
What though I kill'd her husband, and her father ?
The readiest way to make the wench amends,
Is—to become her husband, and her father :
The which will I ; not all so much for love,
As for another secret close intent,
By marrying her, which I must reach unto.
But yet I run before my horse to market :
Clarence still breathes ; Edward still lives, and reigns ;
When they are gone, then must I count my gains.

[*Exit.*]

“ Stand forth, transform'd Antonio, fully *mew'd*

“ From brown soar feathers of dull yeomanry,

“ To the glorious bloom of gentry.” STEEVENS.

³ Now, by saint Paul, ———] The folio reads :

Now, by saint John, ——— STEEVENS.

SCENE

S C E N E II.

Another Street.

Enter the corse of Henry the sixth, with halberds to guard it ; Lady Anne being the mourner.

Anne. Set down, set down your honourable load,—
 If honour may be shrouded in a hearse,—
 Whilst I a while obsequiously lament *
 The untimely fall of virtuous Lancaster.—
 Poor key-cold figure † of a holy king !
 Pale ashes of the house of Lancaster !
 Thou bloodless remnant of that royal blood !
 Be it lawful that I invoke thy ghost,
 To hear the lamentations of poor Anne,
 Wife to thy Edward, to thy slaughter'd son,
 Stabb'd by the self-same hand that made these
 wounds !

Lo, in these windows, that let forth thy life,
 I pour the helpless balm of my poor eyes :—
 O, curfed be the hand, that made these holes !
 Curfed the heart, that had the heart to do it !
 Curfed the blood, that let this blood from hence !
 More direful hap betide that hated wretch,
 That makes us wretched by the death of thee,
 Than I can wish to adders, spiders, toads,

* —obsequiously lament] *Obsequious*, in this instance, means *funereal*. So, in *Hamlet*, act I. sc. ii:

“ To do obsequious sorrow.” STEEVENS.

† —key-cold] A key, on account of the coldness of the metal of which it is composed, was anciently employed to stop any slight bleeding. The epithet is common to many old writers; among the rest, it is used by Decker in his *Satiromastix*:

“ —It is best you hide your head, for fear your wise brains take key-cold.”

Again, in the *Country Girl*, by T. B. 1647:

“ The key-cold figure of a man.” STEEVENS.

Or any creeping venom'd thing that lives !
 If ever he have child, abortive be it,
 Prodigious, and untimely brought to light,
 Whole ugly and unnatural aspect
 May fright the hopeful mother at the view ;
 And that be heir to his unhappiness !
 If ever he have wife, let her be made
 More miserable by the death of him,
 Than I am made by my young lord, and thee !—
 Come, now, toward Chertsey with your holy load,
 Taken from Paul's to be interred there ;
 And, still as you are weary of the weight,
 Rest you, whiles I lament king Henry's corse.

Enter Gloster.

Glo. Stay you, that bear the corse, and set it down.

Anne. What black magician conjures up this fiend,
 To stop devoted charitable deeds ?

Glo. Villains, set down the corse ; or, by saint Paul,
 I'll make a corse of him that disobeys^s.

Gen. My lord, stand back, and let the coffin pass.

Glo. Unmanner'd dog ! stand thou when I com-
 mand :

Advance thy halberd higher than my breast,
 Or, by saint Paul, I'll strike thee to my foot,
 And spurn upon thee, beggar, for thy boldness.

Anne. What, do you tremble ? are you all afraid ?
 Alas, I blame you not ; for you are mortal,
 And mortal eyes cannot endure the devil.—
 Avaunt, thou dreadful minister of hell !

Thou had'st but power over his mortal body,
 His soul thou canst not have ; therefore, be gone.

Glo. Sweet saint, for charity, be not so curst.

Anne. Foul devil, for God's sake, hence, and
 trouble us not ;

^s *I'll make a corse of him that disobeys.*] So, in *Hamlet* :

“ *I'll make a ghost of him that lets me.*” JOHNSON.

For thou hast made the happy earth thy hell,
 Fill'd it with cursing cries, and deep exclaims.
 If thou delight to view thy heinous deeds,
 Behold this pattern of thy butcheries :—⁶
 Oh, gentlemen, see, see ! dead Henry's wounds
 Open their congeal'd mouths, and bleed afresh !—⁷
 Blush, blush, thou lump of foul deformity ;
 For 'tis thy presence that exhales this blood
 From cold and empty veins, where no blood dwells ;
 Thy deed, inhuman, and unnatural,
 Provokes this deluge most unnatural.——

⁶ —— *pattern of thy butcheries :*] *Pattern is instance, or example.*
 JOHNSON.

Holinshed says : “ The dead corps on the Ascension even was conveyed with billes and glaives pompoullie (if you will call that a funerall pompe) from the Tower to the church of saint Paule, and there laid on a beire or coffen bare-faced ; the same in the presence of the beholders did bleed ; where it rested the space of one whole daie. From thence he was carried to the Black-friers, and bled there likewise ; &c.” STEEVENS.

⁷ —— *see, dead Henry's wounds,*
Open their congeal'd mouths, and bleed afresh !—]

It is a tradition very generally received, that the murdered body bleeds on the touch of the murderer. This was so much believed by sir Kenelm Digby that he has endeavoured to explain the reason. JOHNSON.

So, in *Arden of Feversham*, 1592 :

“ The more I found his name, the more he bleeds :

“ This blood condemns me, and in gushing forth

“ Speaks as it falls, and asks me why I did it.”

Again, in the *Widow's Tears*, by Chapman, 1612 :

“ The captain will assay an old conclusion often approved ; that at the murderer's fight the blood revives again and boils afresh ; and every wound has a condemning voice to cry out guilty against the murderer.”

Again, in the 46th *Idea* of Drayton :

“ If the vile actors of the heinous deed,

“ Near the dead body happily be brought,

“ Oft t'hath been prov'd the breathless corps will bleed.”

Mr. Tollet observes that this opinion seems to be derived from the ancient Swedes, or Northern nations from whom we descend ; for they practised this method of trial in dubious cases, as appears from Pitt's *Atlas*, in Sweden, p. 20. STEEVENS.

O God !

O God, which this blood mad'st, revenge his death !
O earth, which this blood drink'st, revenge his death !
Either, heaven, with lightning strike the murderer
dead,

Or, earth, gape open wide, and eat him quick ;
As thou dost swallow up this good king's blood,
Which his hell-govern'd arm hath butchered !

Glo. Lady, you know no rules of charity,
Which renders good for bad, blessings for curses.

Anne. Villain, thou know'st no law of God nor
man ;

No beast so fierce, but knows some touch of pity.

Glo. But I know none, and therefore am no beast.

Anne. O wonderful, when devils tell the truth !

Glo. More wonderful, when angels are so angry.—
Vouchsafe, divine perfection of a woman,
Of these supposed evils, to give me leave,
By circumstance, but to acquit myself.

Anne. * Vouchsafe, diffus'd infection of a man,
For these known evils, but to give me leave,
By circumstance, to curse thy cursed self.

Glo. Fairer than tongue can name thee, let me have
Some patient leisure to excuse myself.

Anne. Fouler than heart can think thee, thou canst
make

No excuse current, but to hang thyself.

Glo. By such despair, I should accuse myself.

* *Vouchsafe, diffus'd infection of a man,*] I believe, *diffus'd* in
this place signifies *irregular, uncouth* ; such is its meaning in other
passages of Shakespeare. JOHNSON.

Diffus'd infection of a man may mean, thou that art as danger-
ous as a pestilence, that infects the air by its diffusion. *Diffus'd*
may, however, mean *irregular*. So, in *The Merry Wives, &c.*

" ———— rush at once

" With some *diffused* song."

Again, in Green's *Farewell to Follie*, 1617 :

" I have seen an English gentleman so *defused* in his futes ; his
doublet being for the weare of Castile, his hose for Venice, &c."

STEEVENS.

Anne.

Anne. And, by despairing, shalt thou stand excus'd
For doing worthy vengeance on thyself,
That didst unworthy slaughter upon others.

Glo. Say, that I slew them not ?

Anne. Then say, they were not slain :
But dead they are, and, devilish slave, by thee.

Glo. I did not kill your husband.

Anne. Why, then he is alive.

Glo. Nay, he is dead ; and slain by Edward's hand.

Anne. In thy foul throat thou ly'st ; queen Margaret saw

Thy murderous faulchion smoking in his blood ;
The which thou once didst bend against her breast,
But that thy brothers beat aside the point.

Glo. I was provoked by her slanderous tongue,
That laid their guilt upon my guiltless shoulders.

Anne. Thou wast provoked by thy bloody mind,
That never dreamt on aught but butcheries :
Didst thou not kill this king ?

Glo. I grant ye.

Anne. Dost grant me, hedge-hog ? then, God grant
me too,

Thou may'st be damned for that wicked deed !

O, he was gentle, mild, and virtuous'.—

Glo. The fitter for the King of heaven that hath
him.

Anne. He is in heaven, where thou shalt never
come.

Glo. Let him thank me, that help to send him
thither ;

For he was fitter for that place, than earth.

⁹ *That laid their guilt—*] The crime of my brothers. He
has just charged the murder of lady Anne's husband upon Ed-
ward. JOHNSON.

¹ O, he was gentle, mild, and virtuous.

Glo. *The fitter for the king of heaven, &c.*]

So, in *Pericles Prince of Tyre*, 1609 :

“ I'll do't : but yet she is a goodly creature.

“ *Dion.* The fitter then the gods should have her.” STEEVENS.

Anne.

Anne. And thou unfit for any place, but hell.

Glo. Yes, one place else, if you will hear me name it.

Anne. Some dungeon.

Glo. Your bed-chamber.

Anne. Ill rest betide the chamber where thou lvest!

Glo. So will it, madam, 'till I lie with you.

Anne. I hope so.

Glo. I know so.—But, gentle lady Anne,—
To leave this keen encounter of our wits,
And fall somewhat into a slower method²;—
Is not the causer of the timeless deaths
Of these Plantagenets, Henry, and Edward,
As blameful as the executioner?

Anne. ⁶Thou wast the cause, and most accurs'd effect.

Glo. Your beauty was the cause of that effect;
Your beauty, which did haunt me in my sleep,
To undertake the death of all the world,
So I might live one hour in your sweet bosom.

Anne. If I thought that, I tell thee, homicide,

² —a slower method;—] As *quick* was used for *sprightly*, so *slower* was put for *serious*. In the next scene lord Grey desires the queen to

—cheer his grace with *quick* and merry words.

STEEVENS.

³ *Thou wast the cause, and most accurs'd effect*;] *Effect*, for executioner. He asks, was not the *causer* as ill as the *executioner*? She answers, Thou wast both. But, for *causer*, using the word *cause*, this led her to the word *effect*, for *execution*, or *executioner*. But the Oxford editor, troubling himself with nothing of this, will make a fine oratorical period of it:

Thou wast the cause. And most accurs'd th' effect!

WARBURTON.

I cannot but be rather of sir T. Hanmer's opinion than Dr. Warburton's, because *effect* is used immediately in its common sense, in answer to this line. JOHNSON.

I believe the old reading is the true one. So, in the *Yorkshire Tragedy*, 1608:

“———thou art the *cause*,

“*Effect*, quality, property; thou, thou.” STEEVENS.

18 KING RICHARD III.

These nails should rend that beauty from my cheeks.

Glo. These eyes could not endure that beauty's wreck,

You should not blemish it, if I stood by :

As all the world is cheered by the sun,

So I by that ; it is my day, my life.

Anne. Black night o'er-shade thy day, and death thy life !

Glo. Curse not thyself, fair creature ; thou art both.

Anne. I would I were, to be reveng'd on thee.

Glo. It is a quarrel most unnatural,

To be reveng'd on him that loveth thee.

Anne. It is a quarrel just and reasonable,

To be reveng'd on him that kill'd my husband.

Glo. He that bereft thee, lady, of thy husband,

Did it to help thee to a better husband.

Anne. His better doth not breathe upon the earth.

Glo. He lives, that loves you better than he could.

Anne. Name him.

Glo. Plantagenet.

Anne. Why, that was he.

Glo. The self-same name, but one of better nature.

Anne. Where is he ?

Glo. Here : [*She spits at him.*] Why dost thou spit at me ?

Anne. Would it were mortal poison, for thy sake !

Glo. Never came poison from so sweet a place.

Anne. Never hung poison on a fouler toad.

Out of my sight ! thou dost infect mine eyes.

Glo. Thine eyes, sweet lady, have infected mine.

Anne. 'Would they were basilisks, to strike thee dead !

Glo. I would they were, that I might die at once ;
For now they kill me with a living death *.

* ——— [*they kill me with a living death.*] In imitation of this passage, and, I suppose, of a thousand more, Pope writes :

" ——— a living death I bear,

" Says Dapperwit, and sunk beside his chair." JOHNSON.
Those

Those eyes of thine from mine have drawn salt tears,
 Sham'd their aspects with store of childish drops :
 5 These eyes, which never shed remorseful tear,—
 Not, when my father York and Edward wept,
 To hear the piteous moan that Rutland made,
 When black-fac'd Clifford shook his sword at him :
 Nor when thy warlike father, like a child,
 Told the sad story of my father's death ;
 And twenty times made pause, to sob, and weep,
 That all the standers-by had wet their cheeks,
 Like trees bedash'd with rain : in that sad time,
 My manly eyes did scorn an humble tear ;
 And what these sorrows could not thence exhale,
 Thy beauty hath, and made them blind with weeping.
 I never su'd to friend, nor enemy ;
 My tongue could never learn sweet soothing word ;
 But now thy beauty is propos'd my fee,
 My proud heart sues, and prompts my tongue to speak.

[She looks scornfully at him.]

Teach not thy lip such scorn ; for it was made
 For kissing, lady, not for such contempt.
 If thy revengeful heart cannot forgive,
 Lo ! here I lend thee this sharp-pointed sword ;
 Which if thou please to hide in this true breast,
 And let the soul forth that adareth thee,
 I lay it naked to the deadly stroke,
 And humbly beg the death upon my knee.

[He lays his breast open, she offers at it with his sword.]

Nay, do not pause ; for I did kill king Henry ;—
 6 But 'twas thy beauty that provoked me.
 Nay, now dispatch ; 'twas I that stabb'd young Ed-
 ward ;—

5 *These eyes, which never &c.*] The twelve following beautiful lines added after the first editions. POPE.

They were added with many more. JOHNSON.

6 *But 'twas thy beauty*——] Shakespeare countenances the observation, that no woman can ever be offended with the mention of her beauty. JOHNSON.

But 'twas thy heavenly face that set me on.

[She lets fall the sword.]

Take up the sword again, or take up me.

Anne. Arise, dissembler; though I wish thy death,
I will not be thy executioner.

Glo. Then bid me kill myself, and I will do it.

Anne. I have already.

Glo. That was in thy rage:

Speak it again, and, even with the word,
This hand, which for thy love, did kill thy love,
Shall, for thy love, kill a far truer love;
To both their deaths shalt thou be accessary.

Anne. I would, I knew thy heart.

Glo. 'Tis figur'd in my tongue.

Anne. I fear me, both are false.

Glo. Then never man was true.

Anne. Well, well, put up your sword.

Glo. Say then, my peace is made.

Anne. That shall you know hereafter.

Glo. But shall I live in hope?

Anne. All men, I hope, live so.

Glo. Vouchsafe to wear this ring.

[She puts on the ring.]

Anne. To take is not to give.

Glo. Look, how this ring encompasseth thy finger,
Even so thy breast encloseth my poor heart;
Wear both of them, for both of them are thine.
And if thy poor devoted servant may
But beg one favour at thy gracious hand,
Thou dost confirm his happiness for ever.

Anne. What is it?

Glo. That it may please you leave these sad designs
To him that hath more cause to be a mourner,
And presently repair to Crosby-place⁷:

Where

⁷ — *Crosby-place*:] A house near Bishopsgate-street, belonging to the duke of Gloster. JOHNSON.

Crosby-Place is now *Crosby-square* in Bishopsgate-street; part of the

Where—after I have solemnly interr'd,
At Chertsey monast'ry this noble king,
And wet his grave with my repentant tears,—
I will with all expedient duty see you :
For divers unknown reasons, I beseech you,
Grant me this boon.

Anne. With all my heart ; and much it joys me too,
To see you are become so penitent.—

Tressel, and Berkley, go along with me.

Glo. Bid me farewell.

Anne. 'Tis more than you deserve :

But, since you teach me how to flatter you

* Imagine I have said farewell already.

[*Exeunt two, with lady Anne.*]

Glo. Take up the corse, firs.

Gen. Towards Chertsey, noble lord ?

Glo. No, to White-Fryars ; there attend my
coming. [*Exeunt the rest, with the corse.*]

Was ever woman in this humour woo'd

Was ever woman in this humour won ?

I'll have her,—but I will not keep her long.

What ! I, that kill'd her husband, and his father,

To take her in her heart's extremest hate ;

With curses in her mouth, tears in her eyes,

The bleeding witness of her hatred by ;

With God, her conscience, and these bars against me,

And I no friends to back my suit withal,

But the plain devil, and dissembling looks,

And yet to win her,—all the world to nothing !

Ha !

Hath she forgot already that brave prince,

the house is yet remaining, and is a meeting place for a preby-
terian congregation. Sir J. HAWKINS.

* *Imagine, I have said farewell already.*] Cibber, who altered
Rich. III. for the stage, was so thoroughly convinced of the ri-
diculousness and improbability of this scene, that he thought him-
self obliged to make Tressel say :

When future chronicles shall speak of this,

Thy will be thought romance, not history. STEEVENS.

22 KING RICHARD III.

Edward, her lord, whom I, some three months since,
Stabb'd in my angry mood at Tewksbury?

A sweeter and a lovelier gentleman,—

⁹ Fram'd in the prodigality of nature,

Young, valiant, wise, and, no doubt, right
royal¹,—

The spacious world cannot again afford :

And will she yet abase her eyes on me,

That cropp'd the golden prime of this sweet prince;

And made her widow to a woeful bed?

On me, whose all not equals Edward's moiety?

On me, that halt, and am mishapen thus?

My dukedom to a beggarly denier,

I do mistake my person all this while :

Upon my life, she finds, although I cannot,

Myself to be a marvellous proper man.

I'll be at charges for a looking-glass;

And entertain a score or two of taylors,

To study fashions to adorn my body :

Since I am crept in favour with myself,

I will maintain it with some little cost.

But, first, I'll turn yon' fellow in his grave;

And then return lamenting to my love.—

⁹ *Fram'd in the prodigality of nature,*] i. e. when nature was in a prodigal or lavish mood. WARBURTON.

¹ —and, no doubt, right royal,—] Of the degree of royalty belonging to Henry the sixth there could be, *no doubt*, nor could Richard have mentioned it with any such hesitation; he could not indeed very properly allow him *royalty*. I believe we should read :

—————and, no doubt, right loyal.

That is, *true to her bed*. He enumerates the reasons for which she should love him. He was *young, wise, and valiant*; these were apparent and indisputable excellencies. He then mentions another not less likely to endear him to his wife, but which he had less opportunity of knowing with certainty, *and, no doubt right loyal*. JOHNSON.

Richard is not speaking of king Henry, but of Edward his son, whom he means to represent as *full of all the noble properties of a king*. *No doubt, right royal*, may, however, be ironically spoken, alluding to the incontinence of Margaret, his mother. STEEVENS.

Shine

KING RICHARD III. 23

Shine out, fair sun, 'till I have bought a glass,
That I may see my shadow as I pass. [Exit.

SCENE III.

The palace.

Enter the Queen, Lord Rivers her brother, and Lord Grey her son.

Riv. Have patience, madam; there's no doubt,
his majesty
Will soon recover his accustom'd health.

Grey. In that you brook it ill, it makes him worse:
Therefore, for God's sake, entertain good comfort,
And cheer his grace with quick and merry words.

Queen. If he were dead, what would betide of me?

Grey. No other harm, but loss of such a lord.

Queen. The loss of such a lord includes all harms.

Grey. The heavens have bless'd you with a goodly
son,

To be your comforter, when he is gone.

Queen. Ah, he is young; and his minority
Is put into the trust of Richard Gloster,
A man that loves not me, nor none of you.

Riv. Is it concluded, he shall be protector?

Queen. ² It is determin'd, not concluded yet:
But so it must be, if the king miscarry.

Enter Buckingham, and Stanley.

Grey. Here come the lords of Buckingham and
Stanley ¹.

Buck.

² It is determin'd, not concluded yet:] *Determin'd* signifies the final conclusion of the will: *concluded*, what cannot be altered by reason of some act, consequent on the final judgment.

WARBURTON.

³ Here come the lords of Buckingham and Derby.] This is a blunder

Buck. Good time of day unto your royal grace !

Stanley. God make your majesty joyful as you have been !

Queen. The countess Richmond, good my lord of Stanley,

To your good prayer will scarcely say—amen.

Yet, Stanley, notwithstanding she's your wife,
And loves not me, be you, good lord, assur'd,
I hate not you for her proud arrogance.

Stanley. I do beseech you, either not believe
The envious slanders of her false accusers ;
Or, if she be accus'd on true report,
Bear with her weakness, which, I think, proceeds
From wayward sickness, and no grounded malice.

Queen. Saw you the king to-day, my lord of Stanley ?

Stanley. But now the duke of Buckingham, and I,
Are come from visiting his majesty.

Queen. What likelihood of his amendment, lords ?

Buck. Madam, good hope ; his grace speaks cheerfully.

Queen. God grant him health ! Did you confer with him ?

Buck. Ay, madam : he desires to make atonement⁴
Between the duke of Gloster and your brothers,

der of inadvertence, which has run through the whole chain of impressions. It could not well be original in Shakespeare, who was most minutely intimate with his history, and the intermarriages of the nobility. The person here called Derby, was Thomas lord Stanley, lord steward of king Edward the fourth's household. But this Thomas lord Stanley was not created earl of Derby till after the accession of Henry the seventh ; and accordingly, afterwards, in the fourth and fifth acts of this play, before the battle of Bosworth-field, he is every where called lord Stanley. This sufficiently justifies the change I have made in his title.

THEOBALD.

⁴ *Ay, madam : he desires to make atonement*] Thus all the old editions that I have seen ; but Mr. Pope altered it thus :

“ Madam, we did ; he seeks to make atonement ; ”
and has been followed by succeeding editors. STEEVENS.

And

And between them and my lord chamberlain ;
And sent to warn them ^s to his royal presence.

Queen. 'Would all were well !—But that will never
be ;—

I fear, our happiness is at the height.

Enter Gloster, Hastings, and Dorset.

Glo. They do me wrong, and I will not endure
it :—

Who are they, that complain unto the king,
That I, forsooth, am stern, and love them not ?
By holy Paul, they love his grace but lightly,
That fill his ears with such dissentious rumours.
Because I cannot flatter, and speak fair,
Smile in men's faces, smooth, deceive, and cog,
Duck with French nods and apish courtesy,
I must be held a rancorous enemy.
Cannot a plain man live, and think no harm,
But thus his simple truth must be abus'd
By filken, sly, insinuating Jacks ?

Grey. To whom in all this presence speaks your
grace ?

Glo. To thee, that hast nor honesty, nor grace.
When have I injur'd thee ? when done thee wrong ?—
Or thee ?—or thee ?—or any of your faction ?
A plague upon you all ! His royal grace,—
Whom God preserve better than you would wish !—
Cannot be quiet scarce a breathing while,
But you must trouble him with lewd complaints.

Queen. Brother of Gloster, you mistake the matter :
The king—of his own royal disposition,
And not provok'd by any suitor else ;
Aiming, belike, at your interior hatred,
That in your outward action shews itself,
Against my children, brothers, and myself ;

^s —to warn them] i. e. to summon. So, in *Julius Caesar* :

“ They mean to warn us at Philippi here.” STEEVENS.

26 KING RICHARD III.

Makes him to send ; that thereby he may gather
The ground of your ill-will⁶, and so remove it.

Glo. I cannot tell ;—The world is grown so bad,
That wrens may prey where eagles dare not perch :
Since every Jack became a gentleman,
There's many a gentle person made a Jack.

Queen. Come, come, we know your meaning,
brother Gloster ;
You envy my advancement, and my friends :
God grant, we never may have need of you !

Glo. Meantime, God grants that we have need of
you :

Our brother is imprison'd by your means,
Myself disgrac'd, and the nobility
Held in contempt ; while great promotions
Are daily given, to enoble those
That scarce, some two days since, were worth a noble.

Queen. By Him, that rais'd me to this careful height
From that contented hap which I enjoy'd,
I never did incense his majesty
Against the duke of Clarence, but have been
An earnest advocate to plead for him.
My lord, you do me shameful injury,
Falsely to draw me in these vile suspects.

Glo. You may deny that you were not the cause
Of my lord Hastings' late imprisonment.

Riv. She may, my lord ; for——

Glo. She may, lord Rivers ?—why, who knows
not so ?

She may do more, fir, than denying that :
She may help you to many fair preferments ;
And then deny her aiding hand therein,
And lay those honours on your high desert.
What may she not ? She may,—ay, marry, may she,—

Riv. What, marry, may she ?

⁶ *Of your ill-will, &c.*] This line is restored from the first edition. POPE.

Glo. What, marry, may she? marry with a king,
A batchelor, a handsome stripling too:
I wis, your grandam had a worser match.

Queen. My lord of Gloster, I have too long borne
Your blunt upbraidings, and your bitter scoffs:
By heaven, I will acquaint his majesty,
Of those gross taunts I often have endur'd.
I had rather be a country servant-maid,
Than a great queen, with this condition—
To be so baited, scorn'd, and storm'd at:
Small joy have I in being England's queen.

Enter Queen Margaret, behind.

Q. Mar. And lessen'd be that small, God, I beseech
thee!

Thy honour, state, and seat, is due to me.

Glo. What! threat you me with telling of the king?
Tell him, and spare not; look, what I have said
I will avouch in presence of the king:
I dare adventure to be sent to the Tower.

'Tis time to speak, ⁸ my pains are quite forgot.

Q. Mar. ⁹ Out, devil! I remember them too well:
Thou kill'dst my husband Henry in the Tower,
And Edward, my poor son, at Tewksbury.

Glo. Ere you were queen, ay, or your husband
king,

⁷ Tell him, and spare not; look, what I have said] This verse
I have restored from the old quarto's. THEOBALD.

⁸ — my pains —] My labours; my toils. JOHNSON.

⁹ Out, devil! —] Read, No. WARBURTON.

There is no need of change; but if there were, the commen-
tator does not change enough. He should read:

———— I remember them too well;

that is, his pains. JOHNSON.

Mr. Lambe observes in his notes on the ancient metrical his-
tory of the *Battle of Floddon Field*, that *out* is an interjection of
abhorrence or contempt, most frequent in the mouths of the
common people of the north. It occurs again in act IV:

“ ——— out on ye, owls!” STEEVENS.

28 KING RICHARD III.

I was a pack-horse in his great affairs ;
A weeder-out of his proud adversaries,
A liberal rewarder of his friends ;
To royalize ¹ his blood, I spilt mine own.

Q. Mar. Ay, and much better blood than his, or
thine.

Glo. In all which time, you, and your husband
Grey,

Were factious for the house of Lancaster ;—
And, Rivers, so were you :—² Was not your husband
In Margaret's battle at saint Alban's slain ?
Let me put in your minds, if you forget,
What you have been ere now, and what you are ;
Withal, what I have been, and what I am.

Q. Mar. A murd'rous villain, and so still thou art.

Glo. Poor Clarence did forsake his father Warwick,
Ay, and forswore himself,—Which Jesu pardon !—

Q. Mar. Which God revenge !

Glo. To fight on Edward's party, for the crown ;
And, for his meed, poor lord, he is mew'd up :
I would to God, my heart were flint, like Edward's,
Or Edward's soft and pitiful, like mine ;
I am too childish-foolish for this world.

Q. Mar. Hie thee to hell for shame, and leave this
world,

Thou cacodæmon ! there thy kingdom is.

Riv. My lord of Gloster, in those busy days,
Which here you urge, to prove us enemies,
We follow'd then our lord, our sovereign king ;
So should we you, if you should be our king.

¹ —royalize,] i. e. to make royal. So, in *Claudius Tiberius Nero*, 1607 :

“ Who means to-morrow for to royalize

“ The triumphs &c.” STEEVENS.

² ——— Was not your husband,

In Margaret's battle, ———]

It is said in *Henry VI.* that he died in quarrel of the house of York.
JOHNSON.

Glo. If I should be ?—I had rather be a pedlar :
Far be it from my heart, the thought thereof !

Queen. As little joy, my lord, as you suppose
You should enjoy, were you this country's king ;
As little joy you may suppose in me,
That I enjoy, being the queen thereof.

Q. Mar. A little joy enjoys the queen thereof ;
For I am she, and altogether joyless.
I can no longer hold me patient.— [*She advances.*

³ Hear me, you wrangling pirates, that fall out
In sharing that which you have pill'd from me⁴ :
Which of you trembles not, that looks on me ?
If not, that, I being queen, you bow like subjects ;
Yet that, by you depos'd, you quake like rebels ?—
⁵ Ah, gentle villain, do not turn away !

Glo. Foul wrinkled witch, what mak'st thou in my
fight ?

Q. Mar. But repetition of what thou hast marr'd ;
That will I make, before I let thee go.

Glo. Wert thou not banished, on pain of death ?

Q. Mar. I was ; but I do find more pain in banishment,
Than death can yield me here by my abode.
A husband, and a son, thou ow'st to me,—

³ *Hear me, you wrangling pirates, &c.]* This scene of Margaret's imprecations is fine and artful. She prepares the audience, like another Cassandra, for the following tragic revolutions.

WARBURTON.

⁴ ——— *which you have pill'd from me :*] To pill is to pillage.
So, in the *Martyr'd Soldier*, by Shirley, 1638 :

“ He has not pill'd the rich, nor flay'd the poor.”

STEEVENS.

⁵ *Ab, gentle villain, ———]* We should read :

——— *ungentle villain, ———* WARBURTON.

The meaning of *gentle* is not, as the commentator imagines, tender or courteous, but *high-born*. An opposition is meant between that and *villain*, which means at once a *wicked* and a *low-born wretch*. So before :

*Since ev'ry Jack is made a gentleman,
There's many a gentle person made a Jack.* JOHNSON.

And

30 KING RICHARD III.

And thou, a kingdom ;—all of you, allegiance :
This sorrow that I have, by right is yours ;
And all the pleasures you usurp, are mine.

Glo. The curse my noble father laid on thee,—
When thou didst crown his warlike brows with paper,
And with thy scorns drew'st rivers from his eyes ;
And then, to dry them, gav'st the duke a clout,
Steep'd in the faultless blood of pretty Rutland ;—
His curses, then from bitterness of soul
Denounc'd against thee, are all fallen upon thee ;
And God, not we, hath plagu'd thy bloody deed.

⁶ *Queen.* So just is God, to right the innocent.

Hast. O, 'twas the foulest deed, to slay that babe,
And the most merciless, that e'er was heard of.

Riv. Tyrants themselves wept when it was re-
ported.

Dorf. No man but prophesy'd revenge for it.

Buck. Northumberland, then present, wept to see it.

Q. Mar. What ! were you snarling all, before I
came,

Ready to catch each other by the throat,
And turn you all your hatred now on me ?
Did York's dread curse prevail so much with heaven,
That Henry's death, my lovely Edward's death,
Their kingdom's loss, my woeful banishment,
Could all but answer for that peevish brat ?
Can curses pierce the clouds, and enter heaven ?—
Why, then give way, dull clouds, to my quick
curses !——

Though not by war, ⁷ by surfeit die your king,
As ours by murder, to make him a king !
Edward, thy son, that now is prince of Wales,
For Edward my son, that was prince of Wales,
Die in his youth, by like untimely violence !

⁶ *Q. Mar.* *So just is God, &c.*] This line should be given to Edward IVth's queen. WARBURTON.

⁷ —by *surfeit die your king* !] Alluding to his luxurious life.

JOHNSON.

Thy.

Thyself a queen, for me that was a queen,
 Out-live thy glory, like my wretched self!
 Long may'st thou live, to wail thy children's loss;
 And see another, as I see thee now,
 Deck'd in thy rights, as thou art stall'd in mine!
 Long die thy happy days before thy death;
 And, after many lengthen'd hours of grief,
 Die neither mother, wife, nor England's queen!—
 Rivers,—and Dorset,—you were standers by,—
 And so wast thou, lord Hastings,—when my son
 Was stabb'd with bloody daggers; God, I pray him,
 That none of you may live your natural age,
 But by some unlook'd accident cut off!

Glo. Have done thy charm, thou hateful wither'd hag.

Q. Mar. And leave out thee? stay, dog, for thou shalt hear me.

If heaven have any grievous plague in store,
 Exceeding those that I can wish upon thee,
 O, let them keep it, 'till thy sins be ripe,
 And then hurl down their indignation
 On thee, the troubler of the poor world's peace!
 The worm of conscience still be-gnaw thy soul!
 Thy friends suspect for traitors while thou liv'st,
 And take deep traitors for thy dearest friends!
 No sleep close up that deadly eye of thine,
 Unless it be while some tormenting dream
 Affrights thee with a hell of ugly devils!
 Thou elvish-mark'd^s abortive,^a rooting hog!

Thou

^s ——— *elvish-mark'd*] The common people in Scotland (as I learn from Kelly's *Proverbs*) have still an aversion to those who have any natural defect or redundancy, as thinking them *mark'd* out for mischief. STEEVENS.

^a ——— *rooting hog*!] The expression is fine, alluding (in memory of her young son) to the ravage which hogs make, with the finest flowers, in gardens; and intimating that Elizabeth was to expect no other treatment for her sons. WARBURTON.

She calls him *hog*, as an appellation more contemptuous than *boar*.

82 KING RICHARD III.

Thou that wast seal'd in thy nativity
 1 The slave of nature, and the son of hell!
 Thou slander of thy mother's heavy womb!
 Thou loathed issue of thy father's loins!
 2 Thou rag of honour! thou detested—

Glo.

Joar, as he is elsewhere termed from his ensigns armorial. There is no such heap of allusion as the commentator imagines.

JOHNSON.

In the *Mirror for Magistrates* (a book already quoted) is the following *Complaint of Collingbourne, who was cruelly executed for making a rime*.

For where I meant the king by name of hog,
 I only alluded to his badge the bore:
 To Lovel's name I added more,—our dog;
 Because most dogs have borne that name of yore.
 These metaphors I us'd with other more,
 As cat and rat, the half-names of the rest,
 To hide the sense that they so wrongly wrest.

That Lovel was once the common name of a dog, may be likewise known from a passage in *The Historie of Jacob and Esau*, an interlude, 1568:

“Then come on at once, take my quiver and my bowe;
 “Fette lovell my bounde, and my horne to blowe.”

The rhyme for which Collingbourne suffered, was:

“A cat, a rat, and Lovel the dog,
 “Rule all England under a hog.” STEEVENS.

1 *The slave of nature*, —] The expression is strong and noble, and alludes to the ancient custom of masters branding their profligate slaves: by which it is insinuated that his misshapen person was the mark that nature had set upon him to stigmatize his ill conditions. Shakespeare expresses the same thought in *The Comedy of Errors*:

“He is deformed, crooked, &c.

“Stigmatical in making, —”

But as the speaker rises in her resentment, she expresses this contemptuous thought much more openly, and condemns him to a still worse state of slavery:

“Sin, death, and hell, have set their marks on him.”

Only, in the first line, her mention of his moral condition insinuates her reflections on his deformity: and, in the last, her mention of his deformity insinuates her reflections on his moral condition: And thus he has taught her to scold in all the elegance of figure. WARBURTON.

2 *Thou rag of honour*, &c.] We should certainly read:

Thou wrack of honour —

Glo. Margaret.

Q. Mar. Richard !

Glo. Ha ?

Q. Mar. I call thee not.

Glo. I cry thee mercy then ; for I did think,
That thou had'st call'd me all these bitter names.

Q. Mar. Why, so I did ; but look'd for no reply.
O, let me make the period to my curse.

Glo. 'Tis done by me ; and ends in—Margaret.

Queen. Thus have you breath'd your curse against
yourself.

Q. Mar. Poor painted queen, vain flourish of my
fortune³ !

Why strew'st thou sugar on that⁴ bottled spider,
Whose deadly web ensnareth thee about ?

Fool, fool ! thou whet'st a knife to kill thyself.

The day will come, that thou shalt wish for me
To help thee curse this pois'nous bunch-back'd toad.

Hast. False-boding woman, end thy frantick curse ;
Lest, to thy harm, thou move our patience.

Q. Mar. Foul shame upon you ! you have all mov'd
mine.

i. e. the ruin and destruction of honour ; which, I suppose, was
first writ *rack*, and then further corrupted to *rag*. WARBURTON.

Rag is, in my opinion, right, and intimates that much of his
honour is torn away. *Patch* is, in the same manner, a contemp-
tuous appellation. JOHNSON.

This word of contempt is used again in *Timon* :

“ If thou wilt curse, thy father, that poor *rag*,

“ Must be the subject.”

Again, in this play :

“ These over-weening *rags* of France.” STEEVENS.

³ — *flourish of my fortune* !] This expression is likewise used
by Massinger in the *Great Duke of Florence* :

“ ——— I allow these

“ As *flourishings of fortune*.” STEEVENS.

⁴ — *bottled spider*,] A spider is called bottled, because,
like other insects, he has a middle slender and a belly protuberant.
Richard's form and venom, make her liken him to a spider.

JOHNSON.

Riv. Were you well serv'd, you would be taught
your duty.

Q. Mar. To serve me well, you all should do me
duty,

Teach me to be your queen, and you my subjects :
O, serve me well, and teach yourselves that duty.

Dorf. Dispute not with her, she is lunatic.

Q. Mar.^s Peace, master marquis, you are malapert;
Your fire-new stamp of honour is scarce current :
O, that your young nobility could judge,
What 'twere to lose it, and be miserable !

They that stand high, have many blasts to shake
them ;

And, if they fall, they dash themselves to pieces.

Glo. Good counsel, marry ;—learn it, learn it,
marquis.

Dorf. It touches you, my lord, as much as me.

Glo. Ay, and much more : But I was born so high,
Our airy buildeth in the cedar's top,
And dallies with the wind, and scorns the sun.

Q. Mar. And turns the sun to shade ;—alas ! alas !—
Witness my sun, now in the shade of death ;
Whose bright out-shining beams thy cloudy wrath
Hath in eternal darkness folded up.

^s *Peace, master marquis ; you are malapert ; &c.*] Shakespeare may either allude to the late creation of the marquis of Dorset, or to the institution of the title of marquis here in England, as a special dignity, which was no older than Richard II. Robert Vere, earl of Oxford, was the first, who, as a distinct dignity, received the title of marquis, 1st December, *anno nono Richardi secundi*. See Ashmole's *History of the Order of the Garter*, p. 456. GRAY.

Peace, master marquis, you are malapert ;] As near a hundred years had elapsed between the time when the title of marquis was first instituted in England, and the creation of this Thomas Grey marquis of Dorset, I think Shakespeare can hardly allude to the institution of the dignity itself ; much less could he call it a *fire-new stamp of honour scarce current*. Robert Vere, the first created marquis received this new title, A. D. 1386. Thomas Grey was created marquis of Dorset, A. D. 1476. PERCY.

YOUR

Your aiery buildeth in our aiery's nest⁶ :—

O God, that see'st it, do not suffer it ;

As it was won with blood, lost be it so !

Buck. Peace, peace, for shame, if not for charity.

Q. Mar. Urge neither charity nor shame to me ;

Uncharitably with me have you dealt,

And shamefully by you my hopes are butcher'd.

My charity is outrage, life my shame,—

And in my shame still live my sorrow's rage !

Buck. Have done, have done.

Q. Mar. O princely Buckingham, I'll kiss thy hand,

In sign of league and amity with thee :

Now fair befall thee, and thy noble house !

Thy garments are not spotted with our blood,

Nor thou within the compass of my curse.

Buck. Nor no one here ; for curses never pass

The lips of those that breathe them in the air.

Q. Mar. I'll not believe but they ascend the sky,

And there awake God's gentle-sleeping peace.

O Buckingham, beware of yonder dog ;

Look, when he fawns, he bites ; and, when he bites,

His venom tooth will rankle to the death :

Have not to do with him, beware of him ;

Sin, death, and hell, have set their marks upon him ;

And all their ministers attend on him.

Glo. What doth she say, my lord of Buckingham ?

Buck. Nothing that I respect, my gracious lord.

Q. Mar. What, dost thou scorn me for my gentle counsel ?

And sooth the devil that I warn thee from ?

⁶ *Your aiery buildeth in our aiery's nest :—*] An *aiery* is a hawk's or an eagle's nest. So, in Green's *Card of Fancy*, 1608 :

" It is a subtle bird that breeds among the *aiery* of hawks."

Again, in Heywood's *Rape of Lucrece*, 1630 :

" His high-built *aiery* shall be drown'd in blood."

Again, in Massinger's *Maid of Honour* :

" One *aiery*, with proportion, ne'er discloses

" The eagle and the wren." STEEVENS.

O, but remember this another day,
 When he shall split thy very heart with sorrow;
 And say, poor Margaret was a prophetess.—
 Live each of you the subjects to his hate,
 And he to yours, and all of you to God's!⁷ [Exit.]

Buck. My hair doth stand on end to hear her curses.

Riv. And so doth mine; I wonder, she's at liberty⁸.

Glo. I cannot blame her, by God's holy mother;
 She hath had too much wrong, and I repent
 My part thereof, that I have done to her.

Queen. I never did her any, to my knowledge.

Glo. Yet you have all the vantage of her wrong.
 I was too hot to do some body good,
 That is too cold in thinking of it now.

Marry, as for Clarence, he is well repay'd;

⁹ He is frank'd up to fattening for his pains;—

God pardon them that are the cause thereof!

Riv. A virtuous and a christian-like conclusion,

⁷ *Live each of you the subjects to his hate,*

And he to yours, and all of you to God's!]

It is evident from the conduct of Shakespeare, that the house of Tudor retained all their Lancastrian prejudices, even in the reign of queen Elizabeth. In this play of *Richard the Third*, he seems to reduce the woes of the house of York from the curses which queen Margaret had vented against them; and he could not give that weight to her curses, without supposing a right in her to utter them. WALPOLE.

⁸ — *I wonder she's at liberty.*] Thus the quarto. The folio reads:

———— I muse, why she's at liberty. STEEVENS.

⁹ He is frank'd up to fattening for his pains;—] A *frank* is an old English word for a *hog-sly*. 'Tis possible he uses this metaphor to Clarence, in allusion to the crest of the family of York, which was a *boar*. Whereto relate those famous old verses on Richard III:

The cat, the rat, and Lovel the dog,

Rule all England under a hog.

He uses the same metaphor in the last scene of act IV. POPE.

A *frank* was not a common *hog-slye*, but the pen in which those hogs were confined of whom *brawn* was to be made.

STEEVENS.

To pray for them that have done scathe to us¹.

Glo. So do I ever, being well advis'd;—
For had I curs'd now, I had curs'd myself. [*Aside.*]

Enter Catesby.

Cates. Madam, his majesty doth call for you,—
And for your grace,—and you, my noble lords.

Queen. Catesby, I come:—Lords, will you go
with me?

Riv. Madam, we will attend your grace.

[*Exeunt all but Gloster.*]

Glo. I do the wrong, and first begin to brawl.
The secret mischiefs that I set abroad,
I lay unto the grievous charge of others.
Clarence,—whom I, indeed, have laid in darkness,—
I do bewEEP to many simple gulls;
Namely, to Stanley, Hastings, Buckingham;
And tell them—'tis the queen and her allies,
That stir the king against the duke my brother.
Now they believe it; and withal whet me
To be reveng'd on Rivers, Vaughan, Grey:
But then I sigh, and, with a piece of scripture,
Tell them—that God bids us do good for evil:
And thus I clothe my naked villainy
With old odd ends, stol'n forth of holy writ;
And seem a saint, when most I play the devil.

Enter two Murderers.

But soft, here come my executioners.—
How now, my hardy, stout, resolved mates?
Are you now going to dispatch this thing?

¹ ————done scathe to us.] *Scathe* is harm, mischief.
So, in *Soliman and Perseda*:

“Whom now that paltry island keeps from *scath*.”

Again:

“Millions of men oppress with ruin and *scath*.”

STEEVENS.

38 KING RICHARD III.

1 *Mur.* We are, my lord ; and come to have the warrant,

That we may be admitted where he is.

Glo. Well thought upon, I have it here about me :
When you have done, repair to Crosby-place.

But, first, be sudden in the execution,

Withal obdurate, do not hear him plead ;

For Clarence is well spoken, and, perhaps,

May move your hearts to pity, if you mark him.

1 *Mur.* Tut, tut, my lord, we will not stand to prate,

Talkers are no good doers ; be assur'd,

We go to use our hands, and not our tongues.

Glo. Your eyes drop mill-stones, when fools' eyes drop tears² :

I like you, lads ;—about your business straight ;

Go, go, dispatch.

1 *Mur.* We will, my noble lord.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.

An apartment in the Tower.

Enter Clarence, and Brakenbury.

Brak. Why looks your grace so heavily to-day ?

Clar. O, I have past a miserable night,
So full of fearful dreams, of ugly sights,
That, as I am a christian³ faithful man,
I would not spend another such a night,
Though 'twere to buy a world of happy days ;
So full of dismal terror was the time.

² *Your eyes drop mill-stones, when fools' eyes drop tears ;*] This, I believe, is a proverbial expression. It is used again in the tragedy of *Cæsar and Pompey*, 1607 :

“ Men's eyes must mill-stones drop, when fools shed tears.”

STEEVENS.

³ ————*faithful man,*] Not an infidel. JOHNSON.

Brak.

Brak. What was your dream, my lord? I pray you, tell me.

Clar. Methought, that I had broken from the Tower,

And was embark'd to cross to Burgundy;
And, in my company, my brother Gloster:
Who from my cabin tempted me to walk
Upon the hatches; thence we look'd towards Eng-
land,

And cited up a thousand heavy times,
During the wars of York and Lancaster
That had befall'n us. As we pac'd along
Upon the giddy footing of the hatches,
Methought, that Gloster stumbled; and, in falling,
Struck me, that thought to stay him, over-board,
Into the tumbling billows of the main.

O Lord! methought, what pain it was to drown!

What dreadful noise of water in mine ears!

What sights of ugly death within mine eyes!

Methought, I saw a thousand fearful wrecks;

A thousand men, that fishes gnaw'd upon;

Wedges of gold, great anchors, heaps of pearl,

Inestimable stones, unvalued jewels⁴,

All scatter'd in the bottom of the sea.

Some lay in dead men's skulls; and, in those holes,

Where eyes did once inhabit, there were crept,

(As 'twere in scorn of eyes) reflecting gems,

⁵ That woo'd the slimy bottom of the deep,

And mock'd the dead bones that lay scatter'd by.

⁴ *Inestimable stones, unvalued jewels,*] *Unvalu'd* is here used for *invaluable*. So, in *Lovelace's Posthumous Poems*, 1659:

“——— the *unvalow'd* robe she wore

“Made infinite lay lovers to adore.”

Again:

“And what substantial riches I possess,

“I must to these *unvalow'd* dreams confess.” MALONE.

⁵ *That woo'd the slimy bottom*———] By seeming to gaze upon it; or, as we now say, to ogle it. JOHNSON.

Brak. Had you such leisure in the time of death,
To gaze upon these secrets of the deep?

Clar. Methought, I had; and often did I strive
To yield the ghost: but still the envious flood
Kept in my soul, and would not let it forth
To seek the empty, vast, and wand'ring air;
But smother'd it within my panting bulk,
Which almost burst to belch it in the sea.

Brak. Awak'd you not with this sore agony?

Clar. O, no, my dream was lengthen'd after life;
O, then began the tempest to my soul!
I pais'd, methought, the melancholy flood,
With that grim ferryman⁶ which poets write of,
Unto the kingdom of perpetual night.
The first that there did greet my stranger soul,
Was my great father-in-law, renowned Warwick;
Who cry'd aloud,—*What scourge for perjury*
Can this dark monarchy afford false Clarence?
And so he vanish'd: Then came wand'ring by
A shadow like an angel, with bright hair
Dabbled in blood; and he shriek'd out aloud,—
Clarence is come,—false, 'fleeing, perjur'd Clarence,—
That stabb'd me in the field by Tewksbury;—
Seize on him, furies, take him to your torments!—
With that, methought, a legion of foul fiends⁸

Envi-

⁶ —grim ferryman.] The folio reads—*four* ferryman.

STEEVENS.

⁷ —fleeing, perjur'd Clarence,] *Fleeing* is the same as *changing sides*. JOHNSON.

So, in *Antony and Cleopatra*:

—now the *fleeing* moon

No planet is of mine.

Clarence broke his oath with the earl of Warwick, and joined the army of his brother king Edward IV. STEEVENS.

⁸ —a legion of foul fiends

Environ'd me, &c.]

Milton seems to have thought on this passage where he is describing the midnight sufferings of *Our Saviour*, in the 4th book of *Paradise Regain'd*:

Environ'd me, and howled in mine ears
Such hideous cries, that, with the very noise,
I trembling wak'd, and, for a season after,
Could not believe but that I was in hell;
Such terrible impression made my dream.

Brak. No marvel, lord, that it affrighted you;
I am afraid, methinks, to hear you tell it.

Clar. O, Brakenbury, I have done these things,—
That now give evidence against my soul,—
For Edward's sake; and, see, how he requites me!
° O God! if my deep prayers cannot appease thee,
But thou wilt be aveng'd on my misdeeds,
Yet execute thy wrath on me alone:
O, spare my guiltless wife, and my poor children!—
I pray thee, gentle keeper, stay by me;
My soul is heavy, and I fain would sleep.

Brak. I will, my lord; God give your grace good
rest!— [Clarence sleeps.

¹ Sorrow breaks seasons, and reposing hours,
Makes the night morning, and the noon-tide night.
² Princes have but their titles for their glories,
An outward honour for an inward toil;

“ — nor yet stay'd the terror there,
“ Infernal ghosts, and hellish furies, round
“ Environ'd thee, some howl'd, some yell'd, some
shriek'd—” STEEVENS.

° O God! if my deep prayers &c.] The four following lines have
been added since the first edition. POPE.

¹ Sorrow breaks seasons, &c.] In the common editions, the
keeper is made to hold the dialogue with Clarence till this line.
And here Brakenbury enters, pronouncing these words; which
seem to me a reflection naturally resulting from the foregoing con-
versation, and therefore continued to be spoken by the same per-
son, as it is accordingly in the first edition. POPE.

² Princes have but their titles for their glories,
An outward honour, for an inward toil;]

The first line may be understood in this sense, *The glories of princes
are nothing more than empty titles*: but it would more impress the
purpose of the speaker, and correspond better with the following
lines, if it were read:

Princes have but their titles for their troubles. JOHNSON.
And,

42 KING RICHARD III.

And, ³ for unfelt imaginations,
They often feel a world of restless cares :
So that, between their titles, and low name,
There's nothing differs but the outward fame.

Enter the two Murderers.

1 Murd. Ho ! who's here ?

Brak. What would'st thou, fellow ? and how cam'st
thou hither ?

2 Murd. I would speak with Clarence, and I came
hither on my legs.

Brak. What, so brief ?

1 Murd. O, fir, 'tis better to be brief, than te-
dious :—

Shew him our commission, talk no more.

Brak. I am, in this, commanded to deliver
The noble duke of Clarence to your hands :—
I will not reason what is meant hereby,
Because I will be guiltless of the meaning.
Here are the keys ;—there sits the duke asleep :
I'll to the king ; and signify to him,
That thus I have resign'd to you my charge.

1 Murd. You may, fir ; 'tis a point of wisdom :
Fare you well. *[Exit Brakenbury.]*

2 Murd. What, shall we stab him as he sleeps ?

1 Murd. No ; he'll say, 'twas done cowardly, when
he wakes.

2 Murd. When he wakes ! why, fool, he shall ne-
ver wake until the great judgment day.

1 Murd. Why, then he'll say, we stabb'd him sleep-
ing.

2 Murd. The urging of that word, judgment, hath
bred a kind of remorse in me,

³ —for unfelt imaginations,

They often feel a world of restless cares :

They often suffer real miseries for imaginary and unreal gratifica-
tions. JOHNSON.

1 Murd.

1 *Murd.* What? art thou afraid?

2 *Murd.* Not to kill him, having a warrant for it; but to be damn'd for killing him, from the which no warrant can defend me.

1 *Murd.* I thought, thou had'st been resolute.

2 *Murd.* So I am, to let him live.

1 *Murd.* I'll back to the duke of Gloster, and tell him so.

2 *Murd.* Nay, I pr'ythee, stay a little: I hope, this compassionate humour of mine will change; it was wont to hold me but while one would tell twenty.

1 *Murd.* How dost thou feel thyself now?

2 *Murd.* 'Faith, some certain dregs of conscience are yet within me.

1 *Murd.* Remember our reward, when the deed's done.

2 *Murd.* Come, he dies; I had forgot the reward.

1 *Murd.* Where's thy conscience now?

2 *Murd.* In the duke of Gloster's purse.

1 *Murd.* When he opens his purse to give us our reward, thy conscience flies out.

2 *Murd.* 'Tis no matter; let it go; there's few, or none, will entertain it.

1. *Murd.* What, if it come to thee again?

2 *Murd.* I'll not meddle with it, it is a dangerous thing, it makes a man a coward; a man cannot steal, but it accuseth him; a man cannot swear, but it checks him; a man cannot lie with his neighbour's wife, but it detects him: 'Tis a blushing shame-fac'd spirit, that mutinies in a man's bosom; it fills one full of obstacles: it made me once restore a purse of gold, that by chance I found; it beggars any man that keeps it: it is turn'd out of all towns and cities for a dangerous thing; and every man, that means to live well, endeavours to trust to himself, and live without it.

1 *Murd.* 'Zounds, it is even now at my elbow, persuading me not to kill the duke,

2 *Murd.*

2 *Murd.* ⁴ Take the devil in thy mind, and believe him not : he would insinuate with thee, but to make thee sigh.

1 *Murd.* I am strong fram'd, he cannot prevail with me.

2 *Murd.* ⁵ Spoke like a tall fellow, that respects his reputation. Come, shall we fall to work ?

1 *Murd.* Take him over the costard ⁶ with the hilts of thy sword, and then throw him into the malmsey-butt, in the next room.

2 *Murd.* O excellent device ! and make a sop of him.

1 *Murd.* Soft ! he wakes.

2 *Murd.* Strike.

1 *Murd.* No, ⁷ we'll reason with him.

Clar. Where art thou, keeper ? give me a cup of wine.

1 *Murd.* You shall have wine enough, my lord, anon.

Clar. In God's name, what art thou ?

1 *Murd.* A man, as you are.

Clar. But not, as I am, royal.

1 *Murd.* Nor you, as we are, loyal.

Clar. Thy voice is thunder, but thy looks are humble.

⁴ *Take the devil in thy mind, and believe him not : he would insinuate with thee, &c.*] One villain says, *Conscience* is at his elbows, persuading him not to kill the duke. The other says, take the devil into thy nearer acquaintance, *into thy mind*, who will be a match for thy conscience, and believe it not, &c. It is plain then, that *him* in both places in the text should be *it*, namely, conscience. WARBURTON.

Shakespeare so frequently uses both these pronouns indiscriminately, that no correction is necessary. STEEVENS.

⁵ *Spoke like a tall fellow,*] The meaning of *tall*, in old English, is *stout, daring, fearless, and strong*. JOHNSON.

⁶ *—the costard*] *i. e.* the head, a name adopted from an apple snap'd like a man's head. So, in *Arden of Feverham*, 1592 :

“ One and two rounds at his *costard*.”

Hence likewise the term *costar-monger*. STEEVENS.

⁷ *—we'll reason—*] *We'll talk*. JOHNSON.

1 *Murd.*

1 *Murd.* My voice is now the king's, my looks mine own.

Clar. How darkly, and how deadly dost thou speak !

Your eyes do menace me : Why look you pale ?
Who sent you hither ? Wherefore do you come ?

2 *Murd.* To, to, to,—

Clar. To murder me ?

Both. Ay, ay.

Clar. You scarcely have the hearts to tell me so,
And therefore cannot have the hearts to do it.

Wherein, my friends, have I offended you ?

1 *Murd.* Offended us you have not, but the king.

Clar. I shall be reconcil'd to him again.

2 *Murd.* Never, my lord ; therefore prepare to die.

Clar. ⁸ Are you call'd forth from out a world of men,
To slay the innocent ? What is my offence ?
Where is the evidence that doth accuse me ?
What lawful ⁹ quest have given their verdict up
Unto the frowning judge ? or who pronounc'd
The bitter sentence of poor Clarence' death ?
Before I be convict by course of law,
To threaten me with death, is most unlawful.
I charge you, as you hope to have redemption',
That you depart, and lay no hands on me ;
The deed you undertake is damnable.

1 *Murd.* What we will do, we do upon command.

² *Are you call'd forth from out a world of men,]* I think it may be better read :

Are ye call'd forth—— JOHNSON.

The folio reads :

Are you drawn forth among a world of men.

I adhere to the reading now in the text. So, in *Nobody and Somebody*, 1598 :

“ Art thou call'd forth amongst a thousand men

“ To minister this sovereign antidote ? ” STEEVENS.

³ *What lawful quest—]* *Quest* is *inquest* or jury. JOHNSON.

⁴ *——as you hope to have redemption,]* The folio reads—as you hope for any goodness. The quarto likewise adds :

By Christ's dear blood shed for our grievous sins. STEEVENS.

2 *Murd.*

2 *Murd.* And he, that hath commanded, is our king.

Clar. Erroneous vassal ! the great King of kings
Hath in the table of his law commanded,
That thou shalt do no murder ; Wilt thou then
Spurn at his edict, and fulfil a man's ?

Take heed ; for he holds vengeance in his hand,
To hurl upon their heads that break his law.

2 *Murd.* And that same vengeance doth he hurl on
thee,

For false forswearing, and for murder too :
Thou didst receive the sacrament, to fight
In quarrel of the house of Lancaster.

1 *Murd.* And, like a traitor to the name of God,
Didst break that vow ; and, with thy treacherous
blade,
Unrip'dst the bowels of thy sovereign's son.

2 *Murd.* Whom thou wast sworn to cherish and
defend.

1 *Murd.* How canst thou urge God's dreadful law
to us,

When thou hast broke it in such dear degree ?

Clar. Alas ! for whose sake did I that ill deed ?
For Edward, for my brother, for his sake :
He sends you not to murder me for this ;
For in that sin he is as deep as I.
If God will be avenged for the deed,
O, know you yet, he doth it publicly ;
Take not the quarrel from his powerful arm ;
He needs no indirect nor lawless course,
To cut off those that have offended him.

1 *Murd.* Who made thee then a bloody minister,
When gallant-springing¹, brave Plantagenet,

¹ —*springing Plantagenet,*] Blooming Plantagenet ; a prince
in the *spring* of life. JOHNSON.

When gallant, springing,] This should be printed as one word,
I think ; —*gallant-springing.* Shakespeare is fond of these com-
pound epithets, in which the first adjective is to be considered as
an adverb. So, in this play he uses *childish-foolish*, *senseless-obsti-*
nate and *mortal-flaring.* TYRWHITT.

That

That princely ² novice, was struck dead by thee ?

Clar. My brother's love, the devil, and my rage.

Murd. Thy brother's love, our duty, and thy fault,
Provoke us hither now to slaughter thee.

Clar. If you do love my brother, hate not me ;
I am his brother, and I love him well.

If you are hir'd for meed, go back again,
And I will send you to my brother Gloster ;
Who shall reward you better for my life,
Than Edward will for tidings of my death.

² *Murd.* You are deceiv'd, your brother Gloster
hates you.

Clar. Oh, no ; he loves me, and he holds me dear :
Go you to him from me.

Both. Ay, so we will.

Clar. Tell him, when that our princely father York
Bless'd his three sons with his victorious arm,
And charg'd us from his soul to love each other,
He little thought of this divided friendship :
Bid Gloster think on this, and he will weep ³.

¹ *Murd.* Ay, mill-stones ; as he lesson'd us to weep.

Clar. O, do not slander him, for he is kind.

¹ *Murd.* Right, as snow in harvest.—Come, you
deceive yourself ;

'Tis he that sends us to destroy you here.

Clar. It cannot be ; for he bewept my fortune,
And hugg'd me in his arms, and swore, with sobs,
That he would labour my delivery.

¹ *Murd.* Why, so he doth, when he delivers you
From this earth's thralldom to the joys of heaven.

² *Murd.* Make peace with God, for you must die,
my lord.

² —novice,—] Youth ; one yet new to the world. JOHNSON.

³ ——— he will weep.

¹ *Murd.* Ay, millstones.

So, in Massinger's *City Madam* :

“ ——— He, good gentleman,

“ Will weep when he hears how we are used.—

“ Yes, millstones. STEEVENS.”

Clar.

Clar. Hast thou that holy feeling in thy soul,
To counsel me to make my peace with God,
And art thou yet to thy own soul so blind,
That thou wilt war with God by murdering me?—
O, firſt, conſider, he, that ſet you on
To do this deed, will hate you for the deed.

2 Murd. What ſhall we do?

Clar. Relent, * and ſave your ſouls.
Which of you, if you were a prince's ſon,
Being pent from liberty, as I am now,—
If two ſuch murderers as yourſelves came to you,—
Would not intreat for life? as you would beg,
Were you in my diſtreſs,—

1 Murd. Relent! 'tis cowardly, and womaniſh.

Clar. Not to relent, is beaſtly, ſavage, devilish.—
My friend, I ſpy ſome pity in thy looks;
O, if thine eye be not a flatterer,
Come thou on my ſide, and entreat for me:
A begging prince what beggar pities not? *2 Murd.*

* —and ſave your ſouls, &c.] The ſix following lines are not in the old edition. POPE.

They are not neceſſary, but ſo forced in, that ſomething ſeems omitted to which theſe lines are the answer. JOHNSON.

5 —what beggar pities not?] I cannot but ſuſpect that the lines, which Mr. Pope obſerved not to be in the old edition, are now miſplaced, and ſhould be inſerted here, ſomewhat after this manner:

Clar. A begging prince what beggar pities not?

Vil. A begging prince!

Clar. Which of you, if you were a prince's ſon, &c.

Upon this provocation, the villain naturally ſtrikes him. JOHNSON.

Mr. Pope's note is not accurately ſtated. I believe this paſſage ſhould be regulated thus.

Clar. Relent and ſave your ſouls.

1 Vil. Relent! 'tis cowardly and womaniſh.

Clar. Not to relent is beaſtly, ſavage, devilish.
Which of you if you were a prince's ſon
Being pent —

If two ſuch —

Would not intreat for life?

My friend, I ſpy —

O, if

2 *Murd.* Look behind you, my lord.

1 *Murd.* Take that, and that; if all this will not serve, [Stabs him.

I'll drown you in the malmsey-butt within. [Exit.

2 *Murd.* A bloody deed, and desperately dispatch'd!

How fain, like Pilate, would I wash my hands
Of this most grievous guilty murder done!

Re-enter first Murderer.

1 *Murd.* How now? what mean'st thou, that thou help'st me not?

By heaven, the duke shall know how slack you have been.

2 *Murd.* I would he knew, that I had sav'd his brother!

Take thou the fee, and tell him what I say;
For I repent me that the duke is slain. [Exit.

1 *Murd.* So do not I; go, coward, as thou art.—

Well, I'll go hide the body in some hole,

'Till that the duke give order for his burial:

And when I have my meed, I will away;

For this will out, and then I must not stay.

[Exit, with the body.

O, if thine eye——

Come then on my side, and intreat for me,

As you would beg, were you in my distress.

A begging prince what beggar pities not? TYRWHITT.

[A begging prince what beggar pities not?] To this in the quarto, the murderer replies:

I, thus and thus: if this will not serve,

I'll chop thee in the malmesey but in the next roome.

and then stabs him. STEEVENS.

ACT II. SCENE I.

The Court.

Enter King Edward sick, the Queen, Dorset, Rivers, Hastings, Buckingham, Grey, and others.

K. Edw. Why, so :—now have I done a good day's work ;—

You peers, continue this united league :
I every day expect an embassage
From my Redeemer to redeem me hence ;
And now in peace my soul shall part to heaven,
Since I have made my friends at peace on earth.
Rivers, and Hastings, take each other's hand ;
Dissemble not your hatred, swear your love.

Riv. By heaven, my soul is purg'd from grudging hate ;

And with my hand I seal my true heart's love.

Hast. So thrive I, as I truly swear the like !

K. Edw. Take heed, you dally not before your king ;

Lest he, that is the supreme King of kings,
Confound your hidden falshood, and award
Either of you to be the other's end.

Hast. So prosper I, as I swear perfect love !

Riv. And I, as I love Hastings with my heart !

K. Edw. Madam, yourself are not exempt in this,—
Nor your son Dorset,—Buckingham, nor you ;—
You have been factious one against the other.
Wife, love lord Hastings, let him kiss your hand ;
And what you do, do it unfeignedly.

Queen. There, Hastings ;—I will never more remember

Our former hatred, So thrive I, and mine !

K. Edw. Dorset, embrace him ;—Hastings, love lord marquis.

Dor.

Dor. This enterchange of love, I here protest,
Upon my part, shall be inviolable.

Hast. And so swear I.

K. Edw. Now, princely Buckingham, seal thou
this league

With thy embracements to my wife's allies,
And make me happy in your unity.

Buck. Whenever Buckingham doth turn his hate
Upon your grace, but with all dutious love

[*To the Queen.*

Doth cherish you, and yours, God punish me

With hate in those where I expect most love!

When I have most need to employ a friend,

And most assured that he is a friend,

Deep, hollow, treacherous, and full of guile,

Be he unto me! this do I beg of heaven,

When I am cold in love, to you, or yours.

[*Embracing Rivers, &c.*

K. Edw. A pleasing cordial, princely Buckingham,
Is this thy vow unto my sickly heart.

There wanteth now our brother Gloster here,

To make the blessed period of this peace.

Buck. And, in good time, here comes the noble duke.

Enter Gloster.

Glo. Good morrow to my sovereign, king, and
queen;

And, princely peers, a happy time of day!

K. Edw. Happy, indeed, as we have spent the
day:—

Brother, we have done deeds of charity;

Made peace of enmity, fair love of hate,

Between these swelling wrong-incensed peers.

Glo. A blessed labour, my most sovereign liege.—

Among this princely heap, if any here,

By false intelligence, or wrong surmise,

Hold me a foe; if I unwittingly

Have aught committed that is hardly borne

By any in this presence, I desire
 To reconcile me to his friendly peace :
 'Tis death to me, to be at enmity ;
 I hate it, and desire all good men's love.—
 First, madam, I entreat true peace of you,
 Which I will purchase with my duteous service ;—
 Of you, my noble cousin Buckingham,
 If ever any grudge were lodg'd between us ;—
 Of you, lord Rivers,—and, lord Grey, of you,
 That all without desert have frown'd on me ;—
 Of you, lord Woodville,—and lord Scales, of you,—
 Dukes, earls, lords, gentlemen ; indeed, of all.
 I do not know⁶ that Englishman alive,
 With whom my soul is any jot at odds,
 More than the infant that is born to-night ;
 I thank my God for my humility.

Queen. A holy-day this shall be kept hereafter :—
 I would to God, all strifes were well compounded.—
 My sovereign lord, I do beseech your highness
 To take our brother Clarence to your grace.

Glo. Why, madam, have I offer'd love for this,
 To be so flouted in this royal presence ?

⁶ *I do not know &c.*] Milton in his ΕΙΚΟΝΟΚΛΑΕΤΗΣ, has this observation. “ The poets, and some English, have been in this point so mindful of decorum, as to put never more pious words in the mouth of any person, than of a tyrant. I shall not instance an abstruse author, wherein the king might be less conversant, but one whom we well know was the closet-companion of these his solitudes, William Shakespeare ; who introduced the person of Richard the Third, speaking in as high a strain of piety and mortification as is uttered in any passage in this book, and sometimes to the same sense and purpose with some words in this place ; *I intended*, saith he, *not only to oblige my friends, but my enemies.* The like saith Richard, act II. sc. 1 :

I do not know that Englishman alive
 With whom my soul is any jot at odds,
 More than the infant that is born to-night ;
 I thank my God for my humility.

Other stuff of this sort may be read throughout the tragedy, wherein the poet used not much licence in departing from the truth of history, which delivers him a deep dissembler, not of his affections only, but of religion.” STEEVENS.

Who

Who knows not, that the gentle duke is dead ?

[*They all start.*

You do him injury, to scorn his corse.

K. Edw. Who knows not, he is dead ! who knows,
he is ?

Queen. All-seeing heaven, what a world is this !

Buck. Look I so pale, lord Dorset, as the rest ?

Dor. Ay, my good lord ; and no man in the presence,
But his red colour hath forsook his cheeks.

K. Edw. Is Clarence dead ? the order was revers'd.

Glo. But he, poor man, by your first order died,
And that a winged Mercury did bear ;

Some tardy cripple bore the countermand ?

That came too lag to see him buried :—

God grant, that some, less noble, and less loyal,

Nearer in bloody thoughts, and not in blood,

Deserve not worse than wretched Clarence did,

And yet go current from suspicion !

Enter Lord Stanley.

Stan. A boon, my sovereign, for my service done !

K. Edw. I pr'ythee, peace ; my soul is full of for-
row.

Stan. I will not rise, unless your highness hear me.

K. Edw. Then say at once, what is it thou request'st.

Stan. ⁸ The forfeit, sovereign, of my servant's life ;
Who slew to-day a riotous gentleman,
Lately attendant on the duke of Norfolk.

K. Edw. ⁹ Have I a tongue to doom my brother's
death,

And

⁷ — *some tardy cripple &c.*] This is an allusion to a proverbial expression which Drayton has versified in the second canto of the *Baron's Wars* :

“ Ill news hath wings, and with the wind doth go ;

“ Comfort's a cripple, and comes ever slow.” STEEVENS.

⁸ *The forfeit*—] He means the remission of the forfeit.

JOHNSON.

⁹ *Have I a tongue to doom my brother's death ?*] This lamentation

How that the guilty kindred of the queen
Look'd pale, when they did hear of Clarence' death?
O! they did urge it still unto the king:
God will revenge it. Come, lords; will you go,
To comfort Edward with our company?

Buck. We wait upon your grace. [Exeunt.]

S C E N E II.

The same.

Enter the Dutchess of York, with the two children of Clarence.

Son. Good grandam, tell us, is our father dead?

Dutch. No, boy.

Daugh. Why do you weep so oft? and beat your breast?

And cry,—O Clarence, my unhappy son!

Son. Why do you look on us, and shake your head,
And call us—orphans, wretches, cast-aways,
If that our noble father be alive?

Dutch. My pretty cousins, you mistake me both;
I do lament the sickness of the king,
As loth to lose him, not your father's death;
It were lost sorrow, to wail one that's lost.

Son. Then, grandam, you conclude that he is dead.
The king mine uncle is to blame for this:
God will revenge it; whom I will importune
With earnest prayers, all to that effect,

Daugh. And so will I.

Dutch. Peace, children, peace! the king doth love
you well:

Incapable and shallow innocents,
You cannot guess who caus'd your father's death.

Son. Grandam, we can: for my good uncle Gloster
Told me, the king, provok'd to't by the queen,

56 KING RICHARD III.

Devis'd impeachments to imprison him :
 And when my uncle told me so, he wept,
 And pitied me, and kindly kiss'd my cheek ;
 Bade me rely on him, as on my father,
 And he would love me dearly as his child.

Dutch. Ah, that deceit should steal such gentle
 shapes,

And with a virtuous vizor hide deep vice !
 He is my son, ay, and therein my shame,
 Yet from my dugs he drew not this deceit.

Son. Think you, my uncle did dissemble, gran-
 dam ?

Dutch. Ay, boy.

Son. I cannot think it. Hark ! what noise is this ?

*Enter the Queen, distractedly ; Rivers, and Dorset, after
 her.*

Queen. Ah ! who shall hinder me to wail and weep ?
 To chide my fortune, and torment myself ?
 I'll join with black despair against my soul,
 And to myself become an enemy.—

Dutch. What means this scene of rude impatience ?

Queen. To make an act of tragic violence :—
 Edward, my lord, thy son, our king, is dead.—
 Why grow the branches, when the root is gone ?
 Why wither not the leaves, that want their sap ?—
 If you will live, lament ; if die, be brief ;
 That our swift-winged souls may catch the king's ;
 Or, like obedient subjects, follow him
 To his new kingdom of perpetual rest.

Dutch. Ah, so much interest have I in thy sorrow,
 As I had title in thy noble husband !
 I have bewept a worthy husband's death,
 And liv'd by looking on ' his images :
 But now, two mirrors of his princely semblance.

' ———his images:] The children by whom he was repre-
 sented, JOHNSON.

Are crack'd in pieces by malignant death ;
 And I for comfort have but one false glass,
 That grieves me when I see my shame in him.
 Thou art a widow ; yet thou art a mother,
 And hast the comfort of thy children left thee :
 But death hath snatch'd my husband from mine arms,
 And pluck'd two crutches from my feeble hands,
 Clarence, and Edward. O, what cause have I,
 (Thine being but a moiety of my grief)
 To over-go thy plaints, and drown thy cries ?

Son. Ah, aunt ! [*To the Queen.*] you wept not for
 our father's death ;

How can we aid you with our kindred tears ?

Daugh. Our fatherless distress was left unmoan'd,
 Your widow dolour likewise be unwept !

Queen. Give me no help in lamentation,
 I am not barren to bring forth laments :
 All springs reduce their currents to mine eyes,
 That I, ² being govern'd by the watry moon,
 May send forth plenteous tears to drown the world !
 Ah, for my husband, for my dear lord Edward !

Chil. Ah, for our father, for our dear lord Clarence !

Dutch. Alas, for both, both mine, Edward and
 Clarence !

Queen. What stay had I, but Edward ? and he's
 gone.

Chil. What stay had we, but Clarence ? and he's
 gone.

Dutch. What stays had I, but they ? and they are
 gone.

Queen. Was never widow, had so dear a loss.

Chil. Were never orphans, had so dear a loss.

Dutch. Was never mother, had so dear a loss.

Alas ! I am the mother of these griefs ;

² ——— being govern'd by the watry moon,] That I may live
 hereafter under the influence of the moon, which governs the
 tides, and by the help of that influence drown the world. The
 introduction of the moon is not very natural. JOHNSON.

58 KING RICHARD III.

Their woes are parcell'd, mine are general.
 She for an Edward weeps, and so do I;
 I for a Clarence weep, so doth not she:
 These babes for Clarence weep, and so do I;
 I for an Edward weep, so do not they:—
 Alas! you three, on me, threefold distress'd,
 Pour all your tears; I am your sorrow's nurse,
 And I will pamper it with lamentations.

Dor. Comfort, dear mother; God is much displeas'd,

That you take with unthankfulness his doing:
 In common worldly things, 'tis call'd—ungrateful,
 With dull unwillingness to repay a debt,
 Which with a bounteous hand was kindly lent;
 Much more, to be thus opposite with heaven,
 For it requires the royal debt it lent you.

Riv. Madam, bethink you, like a careful mother,

Of the young prince your son: send straight for him,
 Let him be crown'd; in him your comfort lives:
 Drown desperate sorrow in dead Edward's grave,
 And plant your joys in living Edward's throne.

Enter Gloster, Buckingham, Stanley, Hastings, and Ratcliff.

Glo. Sister, have comfort: all of us have cause
 To wail the dimming of our shining star;
 But none can cure their harms by wailing them.—
 Madam, my mother, I do cry you mercy,
 I did not see your grace:—Humbly on my knee
 I crave your blessing.

Dutch. God bless thee; and put meekness in thy breast,

Love, charity, obedience, and true duty!

Glo. Amen; and make me die a good old man!—
 That is the butt-end of a mother's blessing; [*Aside.*
 I marvel, that her grace did leave it out.

Buck.

KING RICHARD III. 59

Buck. You cloudy princes, and heart-sorrowing
peers,

That bear this mutual heavy load of moan,
Now chear each other in each other's love :
Though we have spent our harvest of this king,
We are to reap the harvest of his son.
The broken rancour of your high-swoln hearts,
But lately splinted, knit, and join'd together,
Must gently be preserv'd, cherish'd, and kept :
Me seemeth good, that, with some little train,
³ Forthwith from Ludlow the young prince be fetch'd
Hither to London, to be crown'd our king.

Riv. Why with some little train, my lord of Buck-
ingham?

Buck. Marry, my lord, lest, by a multitude,
The new-heal'd wound of malice should break out ;
Which would be so much the more dangerous,
By how much the estate is green, and yet ungovern'd :
Where every horse bears his commanding rein,
And may direct his course as please himself,
As well the fear of harm, as harm apparent,
In my opinion, ought to be prevented.

Glo. I hope, the king made peace with all of us ;
And the compact is firm, and true, in me.

Riv. And so in me ; and so, I think, in all :
Yet, since it is but green, it should be put
To no apparent likelihood of breach,
Which, haply, by much company might be urg'd :
Therefore I say, with noble Buckingham,
That it is meet so few should fetch the prince.

³ *Forthwith from Ludlow the young prince be fetch'd*] Edward the young prince, in his father's life time, and at his demise, kept his household at Ludlow, as prince of Wales ; under the governance of Antony Woodville, earl of Rivers, his uncle by the mother's side. The intention of his being sent thither was to see justice done in the Marches ; and, by the authority of his presence, to restrain the Welshmen, who were wild, dissolute, and ill-disposed, from their accustomed murders and outrages. Vid. Hall, Holinshed, &c. THEOBALD,

60 KING RICHARD III.

Hast. And so say I.

Glo. Then be it so ; and go we to determine
Who they shall be that straight shall post to Ludlow,
Madam,—and you my mother,—will you go
To give your censures ⁴ in this weighty business ?

[*Exeunt Queen, &c.*

Manent Buckingham, and Gloster.

Buck. My lord, whoever journeys to the prince,
For God's sake, let not us two stay at home :
For, by the way, I'll sort occasion,
As index to the story we late talk'd of ⁵,
To part the queen's proud kindred from the prince.

Glo. My other self, my counsel's consistory,
My oracle, my prophet !—My dear cousin,
I, as a child, will go by thy direction.
Towards Ludlow then, for we'll not stay behind.

[*Exeunt.*

⁴ ——— your censures ———] To *censure* formerly meant to deliver an opinion. So, in Heywood's *Golden Age*, 1611 ;

“ ——— yet if I *censure* freely,

“ I needs must think that face and personage

“ Was ne'er deriv'd from baseness.”

Again, in *Marius and Sylla*, 1594 :

“ Cinna affirms the senate's *censure* just,

“ And faith, let Marius lead the legions forth.”

Again, in *Orlando Furioso*, 1594 :

“ Set each man forth his passions how he can,

“ And let her *censure* make the happiest man.”

STEEVENs,

⁵ I'll sort occasion,

As index to the story ———]

i. e. preparatory—by way of prelude. So, in *Hamlet* :

“ That storms so loud and thunders in the *index*.”

See the note on that passage. MALONE.

SCENE

SCENE III.

A street near the court.

Enter two Citizens, meeting.

1 *Cit.* Good morrow, neighbour : Whither away so fast ?

2 *Cit.* I promise you, I hardly know myself :
Hear you the news abroad ?

1 *Cit.* Yes, that the king is dead.

2 *Cit.* Ill news, by'r lady ; seldom comes a better :
I fear, I fear, 'twill prove a giddy world.

Enter another Citizen.

3 *Cit.* Neighbours, God speed !

1 *Cit.* Give you good morrow, fir.

3 *Cit.* Doth the news hold of good king Edward's death ?

2 *Cit.* Ay, fir, it is too true ; God help, the while !

3 *Cit.* Then, masters, look to see a troublous world.

1 *Cit.* No, no ; by God's good grace, his son shall reign.

3 *Cit.* Woe to that land, that's govern'd by a child⁶ !

2 *Cit.* In him there is a hope of government ;

7 That, in his nonage, council under him,
And, in his full and ripen'd years, himself,
No doubt, shall then, and 'till then, govern well.

⁶ *Woe to that land that's govern'd by a child !*

“ Woe to thee, O land, when thy king is a child.”

Ecclesiastes, ch. x. STEEVENS.

7 Which in his nonage,——] The word which has no antecedent, nor can the sense or connection be easily restored by any change. I believe a line to be lost, in which some mention was made of the land or the people. JOHNSON.

The quarto reads, *that.* STEEVENS.

1 *Cit.*

62 KING RICHARD III.

1 *Cit.* So stood the state, when Henry the sixth
Was crown'd in Paris but at nine months old.

3 *Cit.* Stood the state so? no, no, good friends,
God wot;

For then this land was famously enrich'd
With politick grave counsel; then the king
Had virtuous uncles to protect his grace.

1 *Cit.* Why, so hath this, both by his father and
mother.

3 *Cit.* Better it were, they all came by his father;
Or, by his father, there were none at all:
For emulation now, who shall be nearest,
Will touch us all too near, if God prevent not.

O, full of danger is the duke of Gloster;
And the queen's sons, and brothers, haught and
proud:

And were they to be rul'd and not to rule,
This sickly land might solace as before.

1 *Cit.* Come, come, we fear the worst; all will be
well.

3 *Cit.* When clouds are seen, wise men put on their
cloaks;

When great leaves fall, then winter is at hand;
When the sun sets, who doth not look for night?
Untimely storms make men expect a dearth:
All may be well; but, if God sort it so,
'Tis more than we deserve, or I expect.

2 *Cit.* Truly, the hearts of men are full of fear:
You cannot reason almost with a man
That looks not heavily, and full of dread.

3 *Cit.* Before the days of change*, still is it so:
By a divine instinct, men's minds mistrust
Ensuing danger; as, by proof, we see

* *Before the days of change, &c.*] This is from Holinshed's
Chronicle, Vol. III. p. 721. "Before such great things, men's
hearts of a secret instinct of nature misgive them; as the sea
without wind swelleth of himself some time before a tempest."

The water swell before a boist'rous storm.

But leave it all to God. Whither away?

2 *Cit.* Marry, we were sent for to the justices.

3 *Cit.* And so was I; I'll bear you company.

[*Exeunt.*]

S C E N E IV.

A room in the palace.

Enter Archbishop of York, the young Duke of York, the Queen, and the Dutchess of York.

Arch. Last night, I heard, they lay at Northampton;
At Stony-Stratford they do rest to-night:
To-morrow, or next day, they will be here.

Dutch. I long with all my heart to see the prince;
I hope, he is much grown since last I saw him.

Queen. But I hear, no; they say, my son of York
Has almost overta'en him in his growth.

York. Ay, mother, but I would not have it so.

Dutch. Why, my young cousin? it is good to grow.

York. Grandam, one night as we did sit at supper,
My uncle Rivers talk'd how I did grow
More than my brother; *Ay*, quoth my uncle Gloster,
Small herbs have grace, great weeds do grow apace:
And since, methinks, I would not grow so fast,
Because sweet flowers are slow, and weeds make haste.

Dutch. Good faith, good faith, the saying did not
hold

In him that did object the same to thee:
He was ⁹ the wretched'st thing, when he was young,
So long a growing, and so leisurely,
That, if his rule were true, he should be gracious.

Arch. And so, no doubt, he is, my gracious madam.

⁹ ——— *the wretched'st thing, —*] *Wretched* is here used in a sense yet retained in familiar language, for *paltry*, *pitiful*, being below expectation. JOHNSON.

Dutch.

64 KING RICHARD III.

Dutch. I hope, he is ; but yet let mothers doubt.

York. Now, by my troth, if I had ' been remember'd,

I could have given my uncle's grace a flout,
To touch his growth, nearer than he touch'd mine.

Dutch. How, my young York ? I pr'ythee, let me hear it.

York. Marry, they say, my uncle grew so fast,
That he could gnaw a crust at two hours old ;
'Twas full two years ere I could get a tooth.

Grandam, this would have been a biting jest.

Dutch. I pr'ythee, pretty York, who told thee this ?

York. Grandam, his nurse.

Dutch. His nurse ! why, she was dead ere thou wast born.

York. If 'twere not she, I cannot tell who told me.

Queen. A parlous boy ¹ :—Go to, you are too shrewd.

Dutch. Good madam, be not angry with the child.

Queen. Pitchers have ears.

Enter a Messenger ³.

Arch. Here comes a messenger : What news ?

Mef. Such news, my lord, as grieves me to unfold.

Queen. How doth the prince ?

Mef. Well, madam, and in health.

Dutch. What is thy news ?

Mef. Lord Rivers, and lord Grey,

Are sent to Pomfret, prisoners ; and, with them,
Sir Thomas Vaughan.

¹ ———been remember'd,] *To be remembered* is in Shakespeare, to have one's memory quick, to have one's thoughts about one.

JOHNSON.

² *A parlous boy.*] *Parlous* is keen, shrewd. So, in *Law Tricks*, &c. 1608 :

“ *A parlous youth, sharp and fatirical.*” STEEVENS.

³ *Enter a Messenger.* The quarto reads—*Enter Dorset.*

STEEVENS.

Dutch.

Dutch. Who hath committed them ?

Mef. The mighty dukes, Glofter, and Buckingham.

Queen. ⁴ For what offence ?

Mef. The fum of all I can, I have difclos'd ;
Why, or for what, the nobles were committed,
Is all unknown to me, my gracious lady.

Queen. Ah me, I fee the ruin of my houfe !
The tyger now hath feiz'd the gentle hind ;
Infulting tyranny begins to jut
Upon the innocent and ⁶ awlefs throne :—
Welcome deftruction, blood, and maffacre !
I fee, as in a map, the end of all.

Dutch. Accurfed and unquiet wrangling days !
How many of you have mine eyes beheld ?
My husband loft his life to get the crown ;
And often up and down my fons were toft,
For me to joy, and weep, their gain, and lofs :
And being feated, and domeftick broils
Clean over-blown, themfelves, the conquerors,
Make war upon themfelves ; brother to brother,
Blood to blood, felf againft felf :—O, prepofterous
And frantick outrage, end thy damned fpleen ;
⁷ Or let me die, to look on death no more !

⁴ *For what offence ?*] This queftion is given to the archbifhop in former copies, but the meffenger plainly fpeaks to the queen or dutcheffs. JOHNSON.

⁶ —*awlefs*—] Not producing awe, not revered. To jut upon is to encroach. JOHNSON.

⁷ *Or let me die, to look on earth no more.*] This is the reading of all the copies, from the firft edition put out by the players, downwards. But I have reftored the reading of the old quarto in 1597, which is copied by all the other authentic quartos, by which the thought is finely and properly improved.

Or let me die, to look on death no more. THEOBALD.

This quarto printed in 1597 I have never feen, neither was it in Theobald's collection of the old copies, which the late Mr. Tonfon poffeffed entire. STEEVENS.

Queen. Come, come, my boy, we will to sanctuary.—

Madam, farewell.

Dutch. Stay, I will go with you.

Queen. You have no cause.

Arch. My gracious lady, go,

And thither bear your treasure and your goods.

For my part, I'll resign unto your grace

The seal I keep ; And so betide to me,

As well I tender you, and all of yours !

Come, I'll conduct you to the sanctuary. [Exeunt.

ACT III. SCENE I.

In London.

The trumpets sound. Enter the Prince of Wales, the Dukes of Gloster and Buckingham, Cardinal Bourchier, and others.

Buck. Welcome, sweet prince, to London, ^s to your chamber.

Glo. Welcome, dear cousin, my thoughts' sovereign :

The weary way hath made you melancholy.

Prince. No, uncle ; but our crosses on the way
Have made it tedious, wearisome, and heavy :
I want more uncles here to welcome me.

Glo. Sweet prince, the untainted virtue of your years

^s ——— to your chamber.] London was anciently called *Cammer regia*. POPE.

So, in Heywood's *If you know not me you know Nobody*, 1633 :
2d Part :

“ This city, our great chamber.” STEEVENS.

Hath not yet div'd into the world's deceit :
 No more can you distinguish of a man,
 Than of his outward shew ; which, God he knows,
 Seldom, or never, jumpeth with the heart ?
 Those uncles, which you want, were dangerous ;
 Your grace attended to their sugar'd words,
 But look'd not on the poison of their hearts :
 God keep you from them, and from such false
 friends !

Prince. God keep me from false friends ! but they
 were none.

Glo. My lord, the mayor of London comes to
 greet you.

Enter the Lord Mayor, and his train.

Mayor. God bless your grace with health and hap-
 py days !

Prince. I thank you, good my lord ;—and thank
 you all.—

I thought, my mother, and my brother York,
 Would long ere this have met us on the way :—
 Fie, what a slug is Hastings ! that he comes not
 To tell us, whether they will come, or no.

Enter Hastings.

Buck. And, in good time ¹, here comes the sweating
 lord.

Prince. Welcome, my lord : What, will our mo-
 ther come ?

Hast. On what occasion, God he knows, not I,
 The queen your mother, and your brother York,
 Have taken sanctuary : The tender prince

¹ ——— jumpeth with the heart :]. So, in *Soliman and Perseda* :
 “ Wert thou my friend, thy mind would jump with mine.”

STEEVENS.

² ——— in good time,] A la bonne heure. Fr. STEEVENS.

Would fain have come with me to meet your grace,
But by his mother was perforce withheld.

Buck. Fie ! what an indirect and peevish course
Is this of hers ?—Lord cardinal, will your grace
Persuade the queen to send the duke of York
Unto his princely brother presently ?

If she deny,—lord Hastings, you go with him,
And from her jealous arms pluck him perforce.

Card. My lord of Buckingham, if my weak oratory
Can from his mother win the duke of York,
Anon expect him here : But if she be obdurate
To mild entreaties, God in heaven forbid
We should infringe the holy privilege
Of blessed sanctuary ! not for all this land,
Would I be guilty of so deep a sin.

Buck. You are too senseless-obstinate, my lord,
² Too ceremonious, and traditional :
³ Weigh it but with the grossness of this age,

² *Too ceremonious, and traditional :*] *Ceremonious* for superstitious ; *traditional* for adherent to old customs. *WARBURTON.*

³ *Weigh it but with the grossness of this age,*] But the more gross, that is, the more superstitious the age was, the stronger would be the imputation of violated sanctuary. The question, we see by what follows, is whether sanctuary could be claimed by an infant. The speaker resolves it in the negative, because it could be claimed by those only whose actions necessitated them to fly thither ; or by those who had an understanding to demand it ; neither of which could be an infant's case : It is plain then, the first line, which introduces this reasoning, should be read thus :

Weigh it but with the greenness of his age,
i. e. the young duke of York's, whom his mother had fled with to sanctuary. The corrupted reading of the old quarto is something nearer the true :

——— *the greatness of his age.* *WARBURTON.*

This emendation is received by Hanmer, and is very plausible ; yet the common reading may stand :

Weigh it but with the grossness of this age,
You break not sanctuary,———

That is, compare the act of seizing him with the gross and licentious practices of *these times*, it will not be considered as a violation of sanctuary, for you may give such reasons as men are now used to admit. *JOHNSON.*

You

You break not sanctuary in seizing him.
 The benefit thereof is always granted
 To those whose dealings have deserv'd the place,
 And those who have the wit to claim the place :
 This prince hath neither claim'd it, nor deserv'd it ;
 Therefore, in mine opinion, cannot have it :
 Then, taking him from thence, that is not there,
 Your break no privilege nor charter there.
 Oft have I heard of sanctuary men ⁴ ;
 But sanctuary children, ne'er 'till now.

Card. My lord, you shall o'er-rule my mind for
 once.—

Come on, lord Hastings, will you go with me ?

Hast. I go, my lord.

Prince. Good lords, make all the speedy haste you
 may. [*Exeunt Cardinal, and Hastings.*]

Say, uncle Gloster, if our brother come,
 Where shall we sojourn 'till our coronation ?

Glo. Where it seems best unto your royal self.
 If I may counsel you, some day, or two,
 Your highness shall repose you at the Tower :
 Then where you please, and shall be thought most fit
 For your best health and recreation.

Prince. I do not like the Tower, of any place :—
 Did Julius Cæsar build that place, my lord ?

Glo. He did, my gracious lord, begin that place ;
 Which, since, succeeding ages have re-edify'd.

Prince. Is it upon record ? or else reported
 Successively from age to age, he built it ?

Buck. Upon record, my gracious lord.

Prince. But say, my lord, it were not register'd ;
 Methinks, the truth should live from age to age,

⁴ *Oft have I heard of sanctuary men ; &c.*] These arguments against the privilege of sanctuary are taken from sir Tho. More's *Life of K. Edward the Fifth*, published by Stowe : “ ——— And verily, I have often heard of sanctuary men, but I never heard earst of sanctuary children, &c.” STEEVENS.

5 As 'twere retail'd to all posterity,
Even to the general all-ending day.

Glo. So wise so young, they say, do ne'er live
long⁶, [Aside.

Prince. What say you, uncle?

Glo. I say, without characters, fame lives long.

7 Thus, like the formal vice, Iniquity, }
I moralize,—two meanings in one word. } [Aside.

Prince.

5 As 'twere retail'd to all posterity,] And so it is: and, by that means, like most other *retailed* things, became adulterated. We should read:

———intail'd to all posterity;

which is finely and sensibly expressed, as if *truth* was the natural inheritance of our children; which it is impiety to deprive them of. WARBURTON.

Retailed may signify diffused, dispersed. JOHNSON.

⁶ So wise, &c.]

Is cedit ante senem, qui sapit ante diem,

a proverbial line.

* Nov. 21, 1576, was enter'd on the books of the Stationers' Company, "*Carminum proverbialium totius humanæ vitæ, loci communes.*" From this collection, perhaps, the pentameter, which I have quoted from memory, is derived. STEEVENS.

7 Thus, like the formal vice, Iniquity,

I moralize two meanings in one word.]

By *vice*, the author means not a *quality*, but a *person*. There was hardly an old *play*, till the period of the *Reformation*, which had not in it a *devil*, and a droll character, a jester; (who was to play upon the devil;) and this buffoon went by the name of a *Vice*. This *buffoon* was at first accoutred with a long jerkin, a cap with a pair of ass's ears, and a wooden dagger, with which (like another *at'equin*) he was to make sport in belabouring the *devil*. This was the constant entertainment in the times of *popery*, whilst spirits, and witchcraft, and exorcising held their own. When the *Reformation* took place, the stage shook off some grossities, and increased in refinements. The master-devil then was soon dismissed from the scene; and this buffoon was changed into a subordinate fiend, whose business was to range on earth, and seduce poor mortals into that personated vicious quality, which he occasionally supported; as, *iniquity* in general, *hypocrisy*, *usury*, *vanity*, *prodigality*, *gluttony*, &c. Now, as the fiend (or *vice*,) who personated Iniquity (or Hypocrisy, for instance) could never hope to play his game to the purpose but by hiding his cloven foot, and assuming a semblance quite different from his real character; he

Prince. That Julius Cæsar was a famous man ;
With what his valour did enrich his wit,

His

he must certainly put on a *formal* demeanour, *moralize* and *prevaricate* in his words, and pretend a *meaning* directly opposite to his *genuine* and *primitive intention*. If this does not explain the passage in question, 'tis all that I can at present suggest upon it.

THEOBALD.

*Thus, like the formal vice, Iniquity,
I moralize two meanings in one word.]*

That the buffoon, or jester of the old English farces, was called the *vice*, is certain : and that, in their *moral* representations, it was common, to bring in the deadly sins, is as true. Of these we have yet several remains. But that the *vice* used to assume the personage of those sins, is a fancy of Mr. Theobald's, who knew nothing of the matter. The truth is, the *vice* was always a fool or jester : And, (as the woman, in the *Merchant of Venice*, calls the clown, alluding to this character,) a *merry devil*. Whereas these mortal sins were so many sad serious ones. But what misled our editor was the name, *Iniquity*, given to this *vice* : But it was only on account of his unhappy tricks and rogueries. That it was given to him, and for the reason I mention, appears from the following passage of Jonson's *Staple of News*, second intermeane :

“ M. How like you the vice i' the play ?

“ T. Here is never a fiend to carry him away. Besides he has never a wooden dagger.

“ M. That was the old way, gossip, when Iniquity came in, like Hocas Pocas, in a jugler's jerkin, with false skirts, like the knave of clubs.”

And, in *The Devil's an Ass*, we see this old *vice*, *Iniquity*, described more at large.

From all this, it may be gathered, that the text, where Richard compares himself to the *formal vice*, *Iniquity*, must be corrupt : And the interpolation of some foolish player. The *vice*, or *iniquity* being not a *formal* but a *merry*, buffoon character. Besides, Shakespeare could never make an exact speaker refer to this character, because the subject he is upon is *tradition* and *antiquity*, which have no relation to it ; and because it appears from the turn of the passage, that he is apologizing for his equivocation by a *reputable* practice. To keep the reader no longer in suspense, my conjecture is, that Shakespeare wrote and pointed the lines in this manner :

*Thus like the formal-wise Antiquity,
I moralize : Two meanings in one word.*

Alluding to the mythologic learning of the antients, of whom they are all here speaking. So that Richard's ironical apology

His wit set down to make his valour live :
Death makes no conquest of this conqueror ;

For

is to this effect, You men of morals who so much extol your all-wise antiquity, in what am I inferior to it? which was but an equivocator as I am. And it is remarkable, that the Greeks themselves called their remote antiquity, *Διχόμενοι* or the *equivocator*. So far as to the general sense; as to that which arises particularly out of the corrected expression, I shall only observe, that *formal-wise* is a compound epithet, an extreme fine one, and admirably fitted to the character of the speaker, who thought all *wisdom* but *formality*. It must therefore be read for the future with a hyphen. My other observation is with regard to the pointing; the common reading:

I moralize two meanings——

is nonsense: but reformed in this manner, very sensible:

Thus like the formal-wise Antiquity

I moralize: Two meanings in one word.

i.e. I moralize as the antients did. And how was that? the having two meanings to one word. A ridicule on the morality of the antients, which he insinuates was no better than equivocating. WARBURTON.

This alteration Mr. Upton very justly censures. Dr. Warburton, has, in my opinion, done nothing but correct the punctuation, if indeed any alteration be really necessary. See the dissertation on the old *vice* at the end of this play.

To this long collection of notes may be added a question, to what equivocation Richard refers? The position immediately preceding, that *some lives long without characters*, that is, without the help of letters, seems to have no ambiguity. He must allude to the former line:

So young so wise, they say, did ne'er live long,
in which he conceals under a proverb, his design of hastening the prince's death. JOHNSON.

From the following stage direction, in an old dramatic piece, entitled, *Histrionastix, or the Player whipt*, 1610, it appears, that the *Vice* and *Iniquity* were sometimes distinct personages:

“Enter a roaring devil, with the *Vice* on his back, *Iniquity* in one hand, and *Juventus* in the other.”

The devil likewise makes the distinction in his first speech:

“Ho, ho, ho! these babes mine are all,

“The *Vice*, *Iniquity*, and child prodigal.”

The following part of this note was obligingly communicated by the rev. Mr. Bowle, of Idmestone near Salisbury. I know no writer who gives so complete an account of this obsolete character, as archbishop Harsnet, in his *Declaration of Popish Impostures*,

For now he lives in fame, though not in life.--
I'll tell you what, my cousin Buckingham.

Buck. What, my gracious lord ?

Prince. An if I live until I be a man,
I'll win our ancient right in France again,
Or die a soldier, as I liv'd a king.

Glo. Short summers⁸ lightly have a forward spring.
[*Afide.*

Enter York, Hastings, and the Cardinal.

Buck. Now, in good time, here comes the duke of York.

Prince. Richard of York ! how fares our loving brother ?

York. Well, my⁹ dread lord ; so must I call you now.

Prince. Ay, brother ; to our grief, as it is yours :
Too late he died, that might have kept that title,
Which by his death hath lost much majesty.

Glo. How fares our cousin, noble lord of York ?

York. I thank you, gentle uncle. O, my lord,
You said, that idle weeds are fast in growth :
The prince my brother hath outgrown me far.

Glo. He hath, my lord.

York. And therefore is he idle ?

postures, p. 114, Lond. 1603 : " It was a pretty part (he tells us) in the old church playes, when the nimble *Vice* would skip up nimbly like a jackanapes into the devil's necke, and ride the devil a course, and belabour him with his wooden dagger, till he made him roare, whereat the people would laugh to see the devil so *vice*-haunted." STEEVENS.

⁸ —lightly—] Commonly, in ordinary course. JOHNSON. So, in the old proverb : " There's lightning *lightly* before thunder." See Ray's *Proverbs*, p. 130. edit. 3d. STEEVENS.

⁹ —dread lord ; —] The original of this epithet applied to kings has been much disputed. In some of our old statutes, the king is called *Rex metuendissimus*. JOHNSON.

¹ Too late he died, —] i. e. too lately, the loss is too fresh in our memory. But the Oxford editor makes him say :

Too soon he died ——— WARBURTON.

O, my

Glo. O, my fair cousin, I must not say so.

York. Then is he more beholden to you, than I.

Glo. He may command me, as my sovereign ;
But you have power in me, as in a kinsman.

York. I pray you, uncle, give me this dagger.

Glo. My dagger, little cousin ? with all my heart.

Prince. A beggar, brother ?

York. Of my kind uncle, that I know will give ;
And, being but a toy, which is no gift to give².

Glo. A greater gift than that I'll give my cousin.

York. A greater gift ! O, that's the sword to it ?

Glo. Ay, gentle cousin, were it light enough.

York. O then, I see, you'll part but with light
gifts ;

In weightier things you'll say a beggar, nay.

Glo. It is too weighty for your grace to wear.

York. ³ I weigh it lightly, were it heavier.

Glo. What, would you have my weapon, little
lord ?

York. I would, that I might thank you as you call
me.

Glo. How ?

York. Little.

Prince. My lord of York will still be cross in talk ;—
Uncle, your grace knows how to bear with him.

² *And, being but a toy, which is no gift to give.*] This is the reading of the quartos ; the first folio reads :

And, being but a toy, which is no grief to give.

This reading, made a little more metrical, has been followed, I think erroneously, by all the editors. JOHNSON.

The quarto 1612 reads :

—no grief— STEEVENS.

³ *I weigh it lightly, &c.*] i. e. I should still esteem it but a trifling gift, were it heavier. But the Oxford editor reads :

I'd weigh it lightly,—

i. e. I could manage it, tho' it were heavier. WARBURTON.

Dr. Warburton is right. So, in *Love's Labour's Lost*, act V. sc. ii :

“ You weigh me not,—O that's you care not for me.”

STEEVENS.

York,

York. You mean, to bear me, not to bear with me :—

Uncle, my brother mocks both you and me ;

³ Because that I am little like an ape,

He thinks that you should bear me on your shoulders.

Buck. With what a sharp-provided wit he reasons !

To mitigate the scorn he gives his uncle,

He prettily and aptly taunts himself :

So cunning, and so young, is wonderful.

Glo. My lord, will't please you pass along ?

Myself, and my good cousin Buckingham,

Will to your mother ; to entreat of her,

To meet you at the Tower, and welcome you.

York. What, will you go unto the Tower, my lord ?

Prince. My lord protector needs will have it so.

York. I shall not sleep in quiet at the Tower.

Glo. Why, what should you fear ?

York. Marry, my uncle Clarence' angry ghost ;

My grandam told me, he was murther'd there.

Prince. I fear no uncles dead.

Glo. Nor none that live, I hope.

Prince. An if they live, I hope, I need not fear.

But come, my lord, and, with a heavy heart,

Thinking on them, go I unto the Tower.

[*Exeunt Prince, York, Hastings, Cardinal and attendants.*]

Buck. Think you, my lord, this little prating

York

Was not incensed by his subtle mother,

To taunt and scorn you this opprobriously ?

³ *Because that I am little like an ape,*] The reproach seems to consist in this : at country shews it was common to set the monkey on the back of some other animal, as a bear. The duke therefore, in calling himself *ape*, calls his uncle *bear*. JOHNSON. To this custom there seems to be an allusion in Ben Jonson's *Masque of Gypsies* :

“ A gypsy in his shape,

“ More calls the beholder,

“ Than *the fellow with the ape*,

“ Or *the ape on his shoulder.*” STEEVENS.

Glo.

Glo. No doubt, no doubt : O, 'tis a parlous boy ;
 Bold, quick, ingenious, forward, capable ;
 He's all the mother's, from the top to toe.

Buck. Well, let them rest.—Come hither, Catesby ;
 thou art sworn

As deeply to effect what we intend,
 As closely to conceal what we impart :
 Thou know'st our reasons urg'd upon the way ;—
 What think'st thou ? is it not an easy matter
 To make William lord Hastings of our mind,
 For the instalment of this noble duke
 In the seat royal of this famous isle ?

Catesb. He for his father's sake so loves the prince,
 That he will not be won to aught against him.

Buck. What think'st thou then of Stanley ? will
 not he ?

Catesb. He will do all in all as Hastings doth.

Buck. Well then, no more but this : Go, gentle
 Catesby,

And, as it were far off, sound thou lord Hastings,
 How he doth stand affected to our purpose ;
 And summon him to-morrow to the Tower,
 To sit about the coronation.

If thou dost find him tractable to us,
 Encourage him, and tell him all our reasons :
 If he be leaden, icy, cold, unwilling,
 Be thou so too ; and so break off the talk,
 And give us notice of his inclination :
 For we to-morrow hold ^a divided councils,
 Wherein thyself shalt highly be employ'd.

Glo. Commend me to lord William : tell him,
 Catesby,

His ancient knot of dangerous adversaries
 To-morrow are let blood at Pomfret-castle ;

^a ——— divided councils,] That is, a *private consultation*,
separate from the known and publick council. So, in the next
 scene, Hastings says :

Bid him not fear the separated councils. JOHNSON.

K I N G R I C H A R D I I I. 77

And bid my friend, for joy of this good news,
Give mistress Shore one gentle kiss the more.

Buck. Good Catesby, go, effect this business
soundly.

Catesb. My good lords both, with all the heed I can.

Glo. Shall we hear from you, Catesby, ere we sleep?

Catesb. You shall, my lord.

Glo. At Crosby-place, there you shall find us both.

[*Exit Catesby.*]

Buck. Now, my lord, what shall we do, if we perceive

Lord Hastings will not yield to our complots?

Glo. Chop off his head, man;—somewhat we will
do^s:—

And, look, when I am king, claim thou of me
The earldom of Hereford, and all the moveables
Whereof the king my brother was possess'd.

Buck. I'll claim that promise at your grace's hand.

Glo. And look to have it yielded with all kindness.
Come, let us sup betimes; that afterwards
We may digest our complots in some form. [*Excunt.*]

S C E N E I I.^s

Before Lord Hastings' house.

Enter a Messenger.

Mes. My lord, my lord,——

Hast. [*Within.*] Who knocks?

Mes. One from lord Stanley.

Hast. What is't o'clock?

Mes. Upon the stroke of four.

^s —will do:] The folio reads—will determine, STEEVENS.

⁶ Scene II. Every material circumstance in the following scene is taken from the *Chronicles*, except that it is a knight with whom Hastings converses, instead of *Buckingham*. STEEVENS.

Enter

Enter Hastings.

Hast. Cannot thy master sleep these tedious nights?

Mej. So it should seem by that I have to say.

First, he commends him to your noble lordship.

Hast. And then,—

Mej. Then certifies your lordship, that this night
He dreamt, the boar had rased off his helm⁷ :
Besides, he says, there are two councils held ;
And that may be determin'd at the one,
Which may make you and him to rue at the other.
Therefore he sends to know your lordship's pleasure,—
If presently you will take horse with him,
And with all speed post with him toward the north,
To shun the danger that his soul divines.

Hast. Go, fellow, go, return unto thy lord ;
Bid him not fear the separated councils :
His honour, and myself, are at the one ;
And, at the other, is my good friend Catesby ;
Where nothing can proceed, that toucheth us,
Whereof I shall not have intelligence.
Tell him, his fears are shallow, ⁹ wanting instance :
And for his dreams,—I wonder, he's so fond
To trust the mockery of unquiet slumbers :

⁷ ———— *the boar had rased off his helm.*] This term *raised* or *rasped* is always given to describe the violence inflicted by a *boar*. So, in *K. Lear*, 4to edit :

“ In his anointed flesh *rasp* boarish fangs.”

Again, in Warner's *Albion's England*, 1602, B. VII. ch. 36 :

“ ——— ha, cur, avaunt, the bore so *rase* thy hide !”

By the *boar*, throughout this scene, is meant Gloster, who was called the *boar*, or the *bog*, from his having a *boar* for his cognizance, and one of the supporters of his coat of arms.

STEEVENS.

⁸ ———— *wanting instance :*] That is, *wanting* some *example* or *act* of malevolence, by which they may be justified : or which, perhaps, is nearer to the true meaning, wanting any *immediate* ground or reason. JOHNSON.

The folio reads — *without* instance. STEEVENS.

To

To fly the boar, before the boar pursues,
Were to incense the boar to follow us,
And make pursuit, where he did mean no chase.
Go, bid thy master rise and come to me ;
And we will both together to the Tower,
Where, he shall see, the boar will use us kindly.

Mef. I'll go, my lord, and tell him what you say.
[Exit.

Enter Catesby.

Cates. Many good morrows to my noble lord !

Hast. Good morrow, Catesby ; you are early stirring ;

What news, what news, in this our tottering state ?

Cates. It is a reeling world, indeed, my lord ;

And, I believe, will never stand upright,
'Till Richard wear the garland of the realm.

Hast. How ! wear the garland ? dost thou mean the crown ?

Cates. Ay, my good lord.

Hast. I'll have this crown of mine cut from my shoulders,

Before I'll see the crown so foul misplac'd.

But canst thou guess that he doth aim at it ?

Cates. Ay, on my life ; and hopes to find you forward

Upon his party, for the gain thereof :

And, thereupon, he sends you this good news,—

That, this same very day, your enemies,

The kindred of the queen, must die at Pomfret.

Hast. Indeed, I am no mourner for that news,

Because they have been still my adversaries :

But, that I'll give my voice on Richard's side,

To bar my master's heirs in true descent,

God knows, I will not do it, to the death.

Cates. God keep your lordship in that gracious mind !

Hast.

80 KING RICHARD III.

Hast. But I shall laugh at this a twelve-month hence,—

That they, who brought me in my master's hate,
I live to look upon their tragedy.

Well, Catesby, ere a fortnight make me older,
I'll send some packing, that yet think not on't.

Cates. 'Tis a vile thing to die, my gracious lord,
When men are unprepar'd and look not for it.

Hast. O monstrous, monstrous ! and so falls it out
With Rivers, Vaughan, Grey : and so 'twill do
With some men else, who think themselves as safe
As thou, and I ; who, as thou know'st, are dear
To princely Richard, and to Buckingham.

Cates. The princes both make high account of
you,—

For they account his head upon the bridge. [*Aside.*]

Hast. I know, they do ; and I have well deserv'd it.

Enter Stanley.

Come on, come on, where is your boar-spear, man ?
Fear you the boar, and go so unprovided ?

Stanl. My lord, good morrow ;—and good morrow,
Catesby :—

You may jest on, but, by the holy rood⁹,
I do not like these several councils, I.

Hast. My lord,
I hold my life as dear as you do yours ;
And never, in my days, I do protest,

⁹ —the holy rood,] i. e. the cross. So, in the old mystery
of *Candlemas-Day*, 1512 :

“ Whan hir swete sone shall on a rood deye.”

Again, in Spenser's *Faery Queen*, B. VI. c. v :

“ And nigh thereto a little chapell stooode

“ Which being all with yvy overspred,

“ Deck'd all the roose, and shadowing the roode,

“ Seem'd like a grove fair branched overhed.”

STEEVENS.

Was

Was it more precious to me than 'tis now :
Think you, but that I know our state secure,
I would be so triumphant as I am ?

Stanl. The lords at Pomfret, when they rode from
London,

Were jocund, and suppos'd their states were sure,
And they, indeed, had no cause to mistrust ;
But yet, you see, how soon the day o'er-cast.
This sudden stab of rancour I misdoubt ;
Pray God, I say, I prove a needless coward !
What, shall we toward the Tower ? the day is spent.

Hast. Come, come, ' have with you.——Wot you
what, my lord ?

To-day the lords you talk of are beheaded.

Stanl. ² They, for their truth, might better wear
their heads,

Than some, that have accus'd them, wear their hats.
But come, my lord, let's away.

Enter a Pursuivant.

Hast. Go on before, I'll talk with this good fellow.

[*Exeunt Lord Stanley, and Catesby.*

Sirrah, how now ? how goes the world with thee ?

Pursf. The better, that your lordship please to ask.

Hast. I tell thee, man, 'tis better with me now,
Than when thou met'st me last where now we meet :
Then I was going prisoner to the Tower,
By the suggestion of the queen's allies ;
But now, I tell thee, (keep it to thyself)
This day those enemies are put to death,
And I in better state than ere I was.

Pursf. God ³ hold it, to your honour's good content !

² ——*have with you.*——] A familiar phrase in parting, as much as, *take something along with you*, or *I have something to say to you.* JOHNSON.

² *They, for their truth,*——] That is, with respect to their honesty. JOHNSON.

³ ——*hold it,*——] That is, continue it. JOHNSON.

82 KING RICHARD III.

Hast. Gramercy, fellow : There, drink that for me. [*Throws him his purse.*]

Purf. I thank your honour. [*Exit Purfivant.*]

Enter a Priest.

Priest. Well met, my lord ; I am glad to see your honour.

Hast. I thank thee, good fir John, with all my heart.

I am in your debt for your last ⁴ exercise ;
Come the next sabbath, and I will content you.

Enter Buckingham.

Buck. What, talking with a priest, lord chamberlain ?

Your friends at Pomfret, they do need the priest ;
Your honour hath no ⁵ shriving work in hand.

Hast. Good faith, and when I met this holy man,
The men you talk of came into my mind.

What, go you toward the Tower ?

Buck. I do, my lord ; but long I shall not stay there :

I shall return before your lordship thence.

Hast. Nay, like enough, for I stay dinner there.

Buck. And supper too, although thou know'st it not. [*Aside.*]

Come, will you go ?

Hast. I'll wait upon your lordship. [*Exeunt.*]

⁴ ——— *exercise;*] Performance of divine service. JOHNSON.

⁵ ——— *shriving work in hand.*] *Shriving work* is confession. JOHNSON.

SCENE

SCENE III.

Before Pomfret-castle.

Enter Sir Richard Ratcliff, conducting Lord Rivers, Lord Richard Grey, and Sir Thomas Vaughan to execution.

Rat. Come, bring forth the prisoners ⁶.

Riv. Sir Richard Ratcliff, let me tell thee this,—
To-day shalt thou behold a subject die,
For truth, for duty, and for loyalty.

Grey. God keep the prince from all the pack of
you !

A knot you are of damned blood-suckers.

Vaugh. You live, that shall cry woe for this here-
after.

Rat. Dispatch ; the limit of your lives is out.

Riv. O Pomfret, Pomfret ! O thou bloody prison,
Fatal and ominous to noble peers !
Within the guilty closure of thy walls,
Richard the second here was hack'd to death :
And, for more slander to thy dismal seat,
We give thee up our guiltless blood to drink.

Grey. Now Margaret's curse is fallen upon our
heads,

When she exclaim'd on Hastings, you, and I,
For standing by when Richard stabb'd her son.

Riv. Then curs'd she Hastings, curs'd she Buck-
ingham,

Then curs'd she Richard :—O, remember, God,
To hear her prayer for them, as now for us !
As for my sister, and her princely sons,—
Be satisfied, dear God, with our true bloods,
Which, as thou know'st, unjustly must be spilt !

⁶ *Come, bring forth the prisoners.] This speech is wanting in the folio. STEEVENS.*

84 KING RICHARD III.

Rat. Make haste, the hour of death is now expir'd.

Riv. Come, Grey,—come, Vaughan,—let us here embrace :

Farewel, until we meet again in heaven. [*Exeunt.*]

S C E N E IV.

The Tower.

Buckingham, Stanley, Hastings, Bishop of Ely, Catesby, Lovel, with others, at a table.

Hast. Now, noble peers, the cause why we are met
Is—to determine of the coronation :

In God's name, speak, when is the royal day ?

Buck. Are all things ready for that royal time ?

Stanl. They are, and wants but nomination.

Ely. To-morrow then I judge a happy day.

Buck. Who knows the lord protector's mind herein ?
Who is most inward with the noble duke ?

Ely. Your grace, we think, should soonest know
his mind.

Buck. We know each other's faces : for our hearts,—
He knows no more of mine, than I of yours ;
Nor I of his, my lord, than you of mine :—
Lord Hastings, you and he are near in love.

Hast. I thank his grace, I know he loves me well ;
But, for his purpose in the coronation,
I have not sounded him, nor he deliver'd
His gracious pleasure any way therein :
But you, my noble lord, may name the time ;
And in the duke's behalf I'll give my voice,
Which, I presume, he'll take in gentle part.

Enter Gloster.

Ely. In happy time, here comes the duke himself.

Glo. My noble lords and cousins, all good morrow :
I have

I have been long a sleeper ; but, I trust,
My absence doth neglect no great design,
Which by my presence might have been concluded.

Buck. ⁷ Had you not come upon your cue, my lord,
William lord Hastings had pronounc'd your part,—
I mean, your voice,—for crowning of the king.

Glo. Than my lord Hastings, no man might be
bolder ;

His lordship knows me well, and loves me well.—
My lord of Ely, when I was last in Holborn,
I saw good strawberries ⁸ in your garden there ;
I do beseech you, send for some of them.

Ely. Marry, and will, my lord, with all my heart.
[*Exit Ely,*

Glo. Cousin of Buckingham, a word with you.
Catesby hath founded Hastings in our business ;
And finds the testy gentleman so hot,

⁷ *Had you not come upon your cue—*] This expression is borrowed from the theatre. The *cue*, *queue*, or *tail* of a speech, consists of the last words, which are the token for an entrance or answer. To *come on the cue*, therefore, is to come at the proper time. JOHNSON.

⁸ —*I saw good strawberries*] The reason why the bishop was dispatched on this errand, is not clearer in Holinshed, from whom Shakespearé adopted the circumstance, than in this scene, where it is introduced. Nothing seems to have happened which might not have been transacted with equal security in the presence of the reverend cultivator of *these strawberries*, whose complaisance is likewise recorded by the author of the Latin play on the same subject, in the Museum :

*Eliensis antistes venis ? senem quies,
Juvenem labor decet : ferunt hortum tuum
Decora fraga plurimum producere.*

EPISCOPUS ELIENSIS.

*Nil tibi claudetur hortus quod meus
Producit ; esset lautius vellem mihi
Quo sim tibi gratus.*

This circumstance of asking for the strawberries, however, may have been mentioned by the historians merely to shew the unusual affability and good humour which the dissembling Gloster affected at the very time when he had determined on the death of Hastings.

STEEVENS.

86 KING RICHARD III.

That he will lose his head, ere give consent,
His master's child, as worshipfully he terms it,
Shall lose the royalty of England's throne.

Buck. Withdraw yourself awhile, I'll go with you.
[*Exeunt Gloster, and Buckingham.*]

Stanl. We have not yet set down this day of triumph.

To-morrow, in my judgment, is too sudden ;
For I myself am not so well provided,
As else I would be, were the day prolong'd.

Re-enter Bishop of Ely.

Ely. Where is my lord protector ? I have sent
For these strawberries.

Hast. His grace looks chearfully and smooth this morning ;

There's some conceit or other likes him well,
When he doth bid good morrow with such spirit.
I think, there's ne'er a man in Christendom,
Can lesser hide his love, or hate, than he ;
For by his face straight shall you know his heart.

Stanl. What of his heart perceive you in his face,
By any ⁹ likelihood he shew'd to-day ?

Hast. Marry, that with no man here he is offended ;
For, were he, he had shewn it in his looks.

Re-enter Gloster, and Buckingham.

Glo. I pray you all, tell me what they deserve,
That do conspire my death with devilish plots
Of damned witchcraft ; and that have prevail'd
Upon my body with their hellish charms ?

Hast. The tender love I bear your grace, my lord,
Makes me most forward in this noble presence

⁹ ——— *likelihood* ———] Semblance ; appearance. JOHNSON.
So, in another of our author's plays :

——— *poor likelihoods*, and modern seemings. STEEVENS.

To doom the offenders : Whosoe'er they be,
I say, my lord, they have deserved death.

Glo. Then be your eyes the witness of their evil,
Look how I am bewitch'd ; behold, mine arm
Is, like a blasted sapling, wither'd up :
And this is Edward's wife, that monstrous witch,
Consorted with that harlot, strumpet Shore,
That by their witchcraft thus have marked me.

Hast. If they have done this deed, my noble lord,—

Glo. If ! thou protector of this damned strumpet,
Talk'st thou to me of ifs ?—Thou art a traitor :—
Off with his head :—now, by saint Paul I swear,
I will not dine until I see the same.—

' Lovel, and Catesby, look, that it be done ;—
The rest, that love me, rise, and follow me.

[*Exit Council, with Richard and Buckingham.*]

Hast. Woe, woe, for England ! not a whit for me ;
For I, too fond, might have prevented this :
Stanley did dream, the boar did raise his helm ;
But I disdain'd it, and did scorn to fly.

* *Lovel, and Catesby, look, that it be done ;*] In former copies :

Lovel, and Ratcliff, look, that it be done.

The scene is here in the Tower ; and lord Hastings was cut off on that very day, when Rivers, Grey, and Vaughan suffered at Pomfret. How then could Ratcliff be both in Yorkshire and the Tower ? In the scene preceding this, we find him conducting those gentlemen to the block. In the old quarto, we find it, *Exeunt : Manet Catesby with Hastings.* And in the next scene, before the Tower walls, we find Lovel and Catesby come back from the execution, bringing the head of Hastings. THEOBALD.

Mr. Theobald should have added, that, in the old quarto, no names are mentioned in Richard's speech. He only says—"some see it done." Nor, in that edition, does Lovel appear in the next scene ; but only Catesby, bringing the head of Hastings. The confusion seems to have arisen, when it was thought necessary, that Catesby should be employed to fetch the mayor, who, in the quarto, is made to come without having been sent for. As some other person was then wanted to bring the head of Hastings, the poet, or the players, appointed Lovel and Ratcliff to that office, without reflecting that the latter was engaged in another service on the same day at Pomfret. TYRWHITT.

Three times to-day my foot-cloth horse did stumble²,
And started, when he look'd upon the Tower,
As loth to bear me to the slaughter-house.

O, now I need the priest that spake to me :

I now repent I told the pursuivant,

As too triumphing, how mine enemies

To-day at Pomfret bloodily were butcher'd,

And I myself secure in grace and favour.

O, Margaret, Margaret, now thy heavy curse

Is lighted on poor Hastings' wretched head.

Cates. Dispatch, my lord, the duke would be at dinner;

Make a short shrift, he longs to see your head.

Hast. O momentary grace of mortal men,
Which we more hunt for than the grace of God!

³ Who builds his hope in air of your fair looks,

Lives like a drunken sailor on a mast ;

Ready, with every nod, to tumble down

Into the fatal bowels of the deep.

² *Three times to-day my foot-cloth horse did stumble, &c.]* So, in the *Legend of Lord Hastings*, by M. D.

My palfrey, in the plainest paved street,

Thrice bow'd his bones, thrice kneeled on the floor,

Thrice shunn'd (as Balaam's ass) the dreaded tower.

To stumble was anciently esteem'd a bad omen. So, in the *Honest Lawyer*. "And just at the threshold Master Bromley stumbled. Signs! signs!"

The *houfings* of a horse, and sometimes a horse himself, were anciently denominated a *foot-cloth*. So, in Ben Jonson's play called *The Case is Altered*:

"I'll go on my *foot-cloth*, I'll turn gentleman."

Again, in *A fair Quarrel*, by Middleton, 1617:

"——— thou shalt have a physician,

"The best that gold can fetch upon his *foot-cloth*."

Again, in *Ram-Alley*, or *Merry Tricks*, 1610:

"——— nor shall I need to try

"Whether my well-greas'd tumbling *foot-cloth* nag

"Be able to out-run a well-breath'd catchpole."

STEEVENS.

³ *Who builds, &c.]* So, Horace:

Nescius auræ fallacis. JOHNSON.

KING RICHARD III. 89

Lov. Come, come, dispatch ; 'tis bootless to exclaim.

Haft. Oh, bloody Richard !—miserable England !
I prophesy the fearful'st time to thee,
That ever wretched age hath look'd upon.—
Come, lead me to the block, bear him my head ;
They smile at me, who shortly shall be dead. [*Exeunt.*]

S C E N E V.

The Tower-walls.

Enter Gloster, and Buckingham, in rusty armour⁴, marvellous ill-favour'd.

Glo. Come cousin, canst thou quake, and change thy colour ?

Murder thy breath in middle of a word,—
And then again begin, and stop again,
As if thou wert distraught, and mad with terror ?

Buck. Tut, I can counterfeit the deep tragedian ;
Speak, and look back, and pry on every side,
Tremble and start at wagging of a straw,
Intending deep suspicion : ghastly looks
Are at my service, like enforced smiles ;
And both are ready in their offices,
At any time, to grace my stratagems,
But what, is Catesby gone ?

Glo. He is ; and, see, he brings the mayor along.

Enter the Lord Mayor, and Catesby.

Buck. Let me alone to entertain him.—Lord mayor !

⁴ —in rusty armour, &c.] Thus Holinshed : “ —himselfe with the duke of Buckingham, stood harnesssed in old ill-faring briganders, such as no man should weene that they would vouchsafe to have put upon their backes, except that some sudden necessitie had constrained them.” STEEVENS.

Glo.

90 KING RICHARD III.

Glo. Look to the draw-bridge there.

Buck. Hark ! a drum.

Glo. Catesby, o'erlook the walls.

Buck. Lord mayor, the reason we have sent for you,—

Glo. Look back, defend thee, here are enemies.

Buck. God and our innocency defend and guard us !

Enter Lovel, and Ratcliff, with Hastings' head.

Glo. Be patient, they are friends ; Ratcliff, and Lovel.

Lov. Here is the head of that ignoble traitor,
The dangerous and unsuspected Hastings.

Glo. So dear I lov'd the man, that I must weep,
I took him for the plainest harmless creature,
That breath'd upon the earth a christian^s ;
Made him my book, wherein my soul recorded
The history of all her secret thoughts :
So smooth he daub'd his vice with shew of virtue,
That, his apparent open guilt omitted,—
I mean, his conversation with Shore's wife,—
He liv'd from all attainder of suspect.

Buck. Well, well, he was the covert'st shelter'd
traitor

That ever liv'd.—Look you, my lord mayor,
Would you imagine, or almost believe,
(Were't not, that by great preservation
We live to tell it you) the subtle traitor
This day had plotted, in the council-house,
To murder me, and my good lord of Gloster ?

^s —the earth a christian ;] Here the quarto adds :

Look you, my lord mayor.

This hemistich I have inserted in the following speech of Buckingham, to which I believe it originally belonged ; as without it we meet with an imperfect verse.

Well, well, he was the covert'st shelter'd traitor
That ever lived.

Would you imagine, &c. STEEVENS.

Mayor.

Mayor. What ! had he so ?

Glo. What ! think you we are Turks, or infidels ?
Or that we would, against the form of law,
Proceed thus rashly in the villain's death ;
But that the extreme peril of the case,
The peace of England, and our persons' safety,
Enforc'd us to this execution ?

Mayor. Now, fair befall you ! he deserv'd his death ;
And your good graces both have well proceeded,
To warn false traitors from the like attempts.
I never look'd for better at his hands,
After he once fell in with mistress Shore.

Buck. Yet had we not determin'd he should die,
Until your lordship came to see his end ;
Which now the loving haste of these our friends,
Somewhat against our meaning, hath prevented :
Because, my lord, we would have had you heard
The traitor speak, and timorously confess
The manner and the purpose of his treasons ;
That you might well have signify'd the same
Unto the citizens, who, haply, may
Misconstrue us in him, and wail his death.

Mayor. But, my good lord, your grace's word shall
serve,
As well as I had seen, and heard him speak :
And do not doubt, right noble princes both,
But I'll acquaint our duteous citizens
With all your just proceedings in this case.

Glo. And to that end we wish'd your lordship here,
To avoid the censures of the carping world.

Buck. But since you came too late of our intent,
Yet witness what you hear we did intend :
And so, my good lord mayor, we bid farewell.

[*Exit Mayor.*

Glo. Go, after, after, cousin Buckingham.
The mayor towards Guildhall hies him in all post :—
There, at your meetest vantage of the time,
Infer the bastardy of Edward's children :

Tell

Tell them, how Edward put to death a citizen ⁶,
 Only for saying—he would make his son
 Heir to the crown ; meaning, indeed, his house,
 Which, by the sign thereof, was termed so.
 Moreover, urge his hateful luxury,
 And bestial appetite in change of lust ;
 Which stretch'd unto their servants, daughters, wives,
 Even where his ranging eye ⁷, or savage heart,
 Without controul, list'd to make his prey.
 Nay, for a need, thus far come near my person :—
 Tell them, when that my mother went with child
 Of that insatiate Edward, noble York,
 My princely father, then had wars in France ;
 And, by just computation of the time,
 Found, that the issue was not his begot ;
 Which well appeared in his lineaments,
 Being nothing like the noble duke my father.
 Yet touch this sparingly, as 'twere far off ;
 Because, my lord, you know, my mother lives.

Buck. Doubt not, my lord ; I'll play the orator,
 As if the golden fee, for which I plead,
 Were for myself : and so, my lord, adieu.

Glo. If you thrive well, bring them to Baynard's
 castle ;

Where you shall find me well accompanied,
 With reverend fathers, and well-learned bishops.

Buck. I go ; and, towards three or four o'clock,
 Look for the news that the Guild-hall affords.

[*Exit Buckingham.*]

Glo. Go, Lovel, with all speed to doctor Shaw,—
 Go thou to friar Penker ⁸ ;—bid them both

⁶ —put to death a citizen,] This person was *one Walker*,
 a substantial citizen and grocer at the *Crown* in Cheapside.

GRAY.

⁷ —his ranging eye,] Thus the modern editors. The folio
 reads—*raging*—the quartos—*lustful*. STEEVENS.

⁸ This *Pinker* or *Penker* was provincial of the *Augustine* friars.
 See *Speed*. STEEVENS.

Meet me, within this hour, at Baynard's castle.

[*Exeunt Lovel, and Catesby.*]

Now will I in, to take some privy order

To draw the brats of Clarence out of fight ;

And to give notice, that no manner of person

Have, any time, recourse unto the princes. [*Exit.*]

S C E N E VI.

A Street.

Enter a Scrivener.

Scriv. Here is the indictment of the good lord
Hastings ;

Which in a set hand fairly is engross'd,

That it may be to-day read o'er in Paul's⁹.

And mark how well the sequel hangs together :—

Eleven hours I have spent to write it over,

For yesternight by Catesby was it sent me ;

The precedent was full as long a doing :

And yet within these five hours Hastings liv'd,

Untainted, unexamin'd, free, at liberty.

Here's a good world the while !——Who is so gross,

That cannot see this palpable device ?

Yet who so bold, but says—he sees it not ?

Bad is the world ; and all will come to nought,

When such bad dealing must be¹ seen in thought.

[*Exit.*]

⁹ —read o'er in Paul's.] The substance of this speech is from Stowe's *Chronicle*, p. 450. " Now was this proclamation made within two houres after that he was beheaded, and it was so curiously indited, and so faire written in parchment, in so well a set hand, and therewith of itself so long a proceffe, that every child might well perceive that it was prepared before, for all the time between his death and the proclaiming could scant have sufficed unto the bare writing alone, &c." STEEVENS.

¹ ———seen in thought.] That is, seen in silence, without notice or detection. JOHNSON.

S C E N E VII.

*Baynard's castle.**Enter Gloster, and Buckingham, at several doors.**Glo.* How now, how now? what say the citizens?*Buck.* Now by the holy mother of our Lord,
The citizens are mum, say not a word.*Glo.* Touch'd you the bastardy of Edward's children?*Buck.* I did; with his contract with lady Lucy,
And his contract by deputy in France :
The insatiate greediness of his desires,
And his enforcement of the city wives ;
His tyranny for trifles ; his own bastardy,—
As being got, your father then in France,
And his resemblance, being not like the duke.
Withal, I did infer your lineaments,—
Being the right idea of your father,
Both in your form and nobleness of mind :
Laid open all your victories in Scotland,
Your discipline in war, wisdom in peace,
Your bounty, virtue, fair humility ;
Indeed, left nothing, fitting for your purpose,
Untouch'd, or slightly handled, in discourse.
And, when my oratory grew toward end,
I bade them, that did love their country's good,
Cry—*God save Richard, England's royal king !**Glo.* And did they so?*Buck.* No, so God help me, they spake not a word ;
But, like dumb statues, or unbreathing stones,
Star'd on each other, and look'd deadly pale.
Which when I saw, I reprehended them ;
And ask'd the mayor, what meant this wilful silence :
His answer was,—the people were not us'd
To be spoke to, but by the recorder.

Then

Then he was urg'd to tell my tale again;—
Thus saith the duke, thus hath the duke inferr'd;
 But nothing spoke in warrant from himself.
 When he had done, some followers of mine own,
 At lower end o' the hall, hurl'd up their caps,
 And some ten voices cry'd, *God save king Richard!*
 And thus I took the vantage of those few,—
Thanks, gentle citizens, and friends, quoth I;
This general applause, and chearful shout,
Argues your wisdom, and your love to Richard:
 And even here brake off, and came away.

Glo. What tongueless blocks were they; Would
 they not speak?

Will not the mayor then, and his brethren, come?

Buck. The mayor is here at hand; ² Intend some
 fear;

Be not you spoke with, but by mighty suit:
 And look you get a prayer-book in your hand,
 And stand between two churchmen, good my lord;
 For on that ground I'll make a holy descant:
 And be not easily won to our requests;
 Play the maid's part, still answer nay, and take it.

Glo. I go; And if you plead as well for them,
³ As I can say nay to thee for myself;
 No doubt we'll bring it to a happy issue.

[*Exit Gloucester.*

² ——— intend *some fear*;] Perhaps, *pretend*; though *intend*
 will stand in the sense of giving attention. JOHNSON.

One of the ancient senses of to *intend* was certainly to *pretend*.
 So, in sc. v. of this act:

Tremble and start at wagging of a straw,

Intending deep suspicion. STEEVENS.

³ *As I can say, nay to thee,*] I think it must be read:

——— *if you plead as well for them*

As I must say, nay to them for myself. JOHNSON.

Perhaps the change is not necessary. Buckingham is to plead
 for the citizens; and *if* (says Richard) *you speak for them as plau-*
sibly as I in my own person, or for my own purposes, shall seem to deny
your suit, there is no doubt but we shall bring all to a happy issue.

STEEVENS.

Buck.

96 KING RICHARD III.

Buck. Go, go, up to the leads; the lord mayor
knocks. [Exit Gloster.]

Enter the Lord Mayor, and Citizens.

Welcome, my lord : I dance attendance here ;
I think, the duke will not be spoke withal.—

Enter Catesby.

Now, Catesby ? what says your lord to my request ?

Cates. He doth entreat your grace, my noble lord,
To visit him to-morrow, or next day :
He is within, with two right reverend fathers,
Divinely bent to meditation ;
And in no worldly suit would he be mov'd,
To draw him from his holy exercise.

Buck. Return, good Catesby, to the gracious duke ;
Tell him, myself, the mayor and aldermen,
In deep designs, in matter of great moment,
No less importing than our general good,
Are come to have some conference with his grace.

Cates. I'll signify so much unto him straight. [Exit.]

Buck. Ah, ha, my lord, this prince is not an
Edward !

He is not lolling on a lewd day-bed,
But on his knees at meditation ;
Not dallying with a brace of courtezans,
But meditating with two deep divines ;
Not sleeping, ⁴ to engross his idle body,
But praying, to enrich his watchful soul :
Happy were England, would this virtuous prince
Take on himself the sovereignty thereof ;
But, sure, I fear, we shall ne'er win him to it.

Mayor. Marry, God defend his grace should say
us nay !

Buck. I fear, he will : Here Catesby comes again :—

⁴ ——— to engross ———] To fatten ; to pamper. JOHNSON.

Re-enter

Re-enter Catesby.

Catesby, what says your lord ?

Cates. He wonders to what end you have assembled
Such troops of citizens to come to him,
His grace not being warn'd thereof before :
He fears, my lord, you mean no good to him.

Buck. Sorry I am, my noble cousin should
Suspect me, that I mean no good to him :
By heaven, we come to him in perfect love ;
And so once more return and tell his grace.

[*Exit Catesby.*

When holy and devout religious men
Are at their beads, 'tis hard to draw them thence ;
So sweet is zealous contemplation.

*Enter Gloster above, between two Bishops^s. Catesby re-
turns.*

Mayor. See, where his grace stands 'tween two
clergymen !

Buck. Two props of virtue for a christian prince,
To stay him from the fall of vanity :
And, see, a book of prayer in his hand ;
True ornaments to know a holy man.—
Famous Plantagenet, most gracious prince,
Lend favourable ear to our requests ;
And pardon us the interruption
Of thy devotion, and right-christian zeal.

Glo. My lord, there needs no such apology ;
I rather do beseech you pardon me,
Who, earnest in the service of my God,

^s — *two bishops.*] It should seem from a former passage that these two clergymen, here called bishops, were Dr. *Shaw*, and *Friar Penker* already mentioned.

Go, Lovel, with all speed to *Doflor Shaw* :

Go thou to *Friar Penker* ; bid them both

Meet me within this hour at Baynard's castle. STEEVENS.

Deferr'd the visitation of my friends.

But, leaving this, what is your grace's pleasure?

Buck. Even that, I hope, which pleaseth God above,
And all good men of this ungovern'd isle.

Glo. I do suspect, I have done some offence,
That seems disgraceful in the city's eye;
And that you come to reprehend my ignorance.

Buck. You have, my lord; Would it might please
your grace,

On our entreaties, to amend your fault!

Glo. Else wherefore breathe I in a Christian land?

Buck. Know, then, it is your fault, that you resign
The supreme seat, the throne majestic,
The scepter'd office of your ancestors,
Your state of fortune, and your due of birth,
The lineal glory of your royal house,
To the corruption of a blemish'd stock:
Whilst, in the mildness of your sleepy thoughts,
(Which here we waken to our country's good)
The noble isle doth want her proper limbs;
Her face defac'd with scars of infamy,
Her royal stock graft with ignoble plants,
' And almost shoulder'd in the swallowing gulph
Of dark forgetfulness and deep oblivion.

' *And almost shoulder'd in the swallowing gulph
Of dark forgetfulness——*]

What it is to be *shoulder'd in a gulph*, Hanmer is the only editor
who seems not to have known: for the rest let it pass without ob-
servation. He reads:

Almost shoulder'd into th' swallowing gulph.

I believe we should read:

And almost smoulder'd in the swallowing gulph,
That is, almost smother'd, covered and lost. JOHNSON.

I suppose the old reading to be the true one. So, in the *Barons' Wars*, by Drayton, canto I:

"Stoutly t' affront and shoulder in debate." STEEVENS.
Shoulder'd is, I believe, the true reading.—Not, thrust in by the
shoulders, but, immersed *up to the shoulders*.

So, in *Othello*:

"Steep me in poverty to the very lips." MALONE.

Which

Which to recure⁷, we heartily solicit
 Your gracious self to take on you the charge
 And kingly government of this your land :
 Not as protector, steward, substitute,
 Or lowly factor for another's gain ;
 But as successively, from blood to blood,
 Your right of birth, your empery, your own.
 For this, consoled with the citizens,
 Your very worshipful and loving friends,
 And by their vehement instigation,
 In this just suit come I to move your grace.

Glo. I cannot tell, if to depart in silence,
 Or bitterly to speak in your reproof,
 Best fitteth my degree, or your condition :
 For, not to answer, you might haply think,
 Tongue-ty'd ambition, not replying, yielded
 To bear the golden yoke of sovereignty,
 Which fondly you would here impose on me ;
 If to reprove you for this suit of yours,
 So season'd with your faithful love to me,
 Then, on the other side, I check'd my friends.
 Therefore,—to speak, and to avoid the first ;
 And then, in speaking, not to incur the last,—
 Definitively thus I answer you.
 Your love deserves my thanks ; but my desert
 Unmeritable, shuns your high request.
 First, if all obstacles were cut away,
 And that my path were even to the crown,
 As the ripe revenue and due of birth ;
 Yet so much is my poverty of spirit,
 So mighty, and so many, my defects,
 That I would rather hide me from my greatness,—
 Being a bark to brook no mighty sea,—
 Than in my greatness covet to be hid,

⁷ *Which to recure,*] To *recure* is to *recover*. This word is frequently used by Spenser ; and both as a verb and a substantive in Lyly's *Endymion*, 1591. STEEVENS.

And in the vapour of my glory smother'd.
 But, God be thank'd, there is no need of me;
 (7 And much I need to help you, if need were)
 The royal tree hath left us royal fruit,
 Which, mellow'd by the stealing hours of time,
 Will well become the seat of majesty,
 And make, no doubt, us happy by his reign.
 On him I lay what you would lay on me,
 The right and fortune of his happy stars,—
 Which, God defend, that I should wring from him!

Buck. My lord, this argues conscience in your grace;
 But the respects thereof are nice and trivial,
 All circumstances well considered.

You say, that Edward is your brother's son;
 So say we too, but not by Edward's wife:
 For first was he contract to lady Lucy,
 Your mother lives a witness to his vow;
 And afterwards by substitute betroth'd
 To Bona, sister to the king of France.
 These both put by, a poor petitioner,
 A care-craz'd mother to a many sons,
 A beauty-waning and distressed widow,
 Even in the afternoon of her best days,
 Made prize and purchase of his wanton eye,
 Seduc'd the pitch and height of all his thoughts
 To base declension and loath'd bigamy:
 By her, in his unlawful bed, he got
 This Edward, whom our manners call—the prince.
 More bitterly could I expostulate,
 Save that, for reverence to some alive,
 I give a sparing limit to my tongue.
 Then, good my lord, take to your royal self
 This proffer'd benefit of dignity:
 If not to bless us and the land withal,
 Yet to draw forth your noble ancestry

* *And much I need to help you,—*] And I want much of the ability requisite to give you help, if help were needed. JOHNSON.

From the corruption of abusing time,
Unto a lineal true-derived course.

Mayor. Do, good my lord ; your citizens entreat you.

Buck. Refuse not, mighty lord, this proffer'd love.

Cates. O, make them joyful, grant their lawful suit.

Glo. Alas, why would you heap these cares on me ?

I am unfit for state and majesty :—

I do beseech you, take it not amiss ;

I cannot, nor I will not yield to you.

Buck. If you refuse it,—as in love and zeal,

Loth to depose the child, your brother's son ;

As well we know your tendernefs of heart,

And gentle, kind, effeminate remorse⁹,

Which we have noted in you to your kindred,

And equally, indeed, to all estates,—

Yet know, whe'r you accept our suit or no,

Your brother's son shall never reign our king ;

But we will plant some other in the throne,

To the disgrace and downfal of your house.

And, in this resolution, here we leave you ;—

Come, citizens, we will entreat no more. [*Exeunt.*

Cates. Call them again, sweet prince, accept their suit ;

If you deny them, all the land will rue it.

Glo. Will you enforce me to a world of cares ?

Well, call them again ; I am not made of stone,

[*Exit Catesby.*

But penetrable to your kind entreaties,

Albeit against my conscience and my soul.—

⁹ — effeminate remorse.] i.e. pity. So, in the *Miseries of enforced Marriage*, 1600 :

“ Be all his days, like winter, comfortless ;

“ Restless his nights, his wants remorseless.”

i. e. unpitied. STEEVENS.

Re-enter Buckingham, and the rest.

Cousin of Buckingham,—and sage, grave men,—
 Since you will buckle fortune on my back,
 To bear her burden, whe'r I will, or no,
 I must have patience to endure the load ;
 But if black scandal, or foul-fac'd reproach,
 Attend the sequel of your imposition,
 Your meer enforcement shall acquittance me
 From all the impure blots and stains thereof ;
 For God doth know, and you may partly see,
 How far I am from the desire of this.

Mayor. God blefs your grace ! we see it, and will
 say it.

Glo. In saying so, you shall but say the truth.

Buck. Then I salute you with this royal title,—
 Long live king Richard, England's worthy king !

All. Amen.

Buck. To-morrow may it please you to be crown'd ?

Glo. Even when you please, for you will have it so.

Buck. To-morrow then we will attend your grace ;
 And so, most joyfully, we take our leave.

Glo. [*To the Clergymen.*] Come, let us to our holy
 work again :—

Farewel, good cousin ;—farewel, gentle friends !

[*Exeunt.*]

* *Farewel, good cousin ; farewel, gentle friends.*] To this act
 should, perhaps, be added the next scene, so will the coronation
 pass between the acts ; and there will not only be a proper interval
 of action but the conclusion will be more forcible. JOHNSON.

A C T

ACT IV. SCENE I.

Before the Tower.

Enter the Queen, Dutchess of York, and Marquis of Dorset, at one door; Anne Dutchess of Gloster, leading Lady Margaret Plantagenet, Clarence's young daughter, at the other.

Dutch. Who meets us here?—my niece Plantagenet,

Led in the hand of her kind aunt of Gloster²?

Now, for my life, she's wand'ring to the Tower,
On pure heart's love, to greet the tender prince.—
Daughter, well met.

Anne. God give your graces both
A happy and a joyful time of day!

Queen. As much to you, good sister! Whither away?

Anne. No further than the Tower; and, as I guess,
Upon the like devotion as yourselves,
To gratulate the gentle princes there.

Queen. Kind sister, thanks; we'll enter all together:

Enter Brakenbury.

And, in good time, here the lieutenant comes.—
Master lieutenant, pray you, by your leave,

² *Who meets us here?—my niece Plantagenet,*

Led in the hand of her kind aunt of Gloster?]

Here is a manifest intimation, that the dutchess of Gloster leads in somebody in her hand; but there is no direction marked in any of the copies, from which we can learn who it is. I have ventured to guess it must be Clarence's young daughter. The old dutchess of York calls her *niece*, i. e. grand-daughter; as grand-children are frequently called *nephews*. THEOBALD.

How doth the prince, and my young son of York?

Brak. Right well, dear madam : By your patience,
I may not suffer you to visit them ;

The king hath strictly charg'd the contrary.

Queen. The king ! who's that ?

Brak. I mean, the lord protector.

Queen. The Lord protect him from that kingly title !
Hath he set bounds between their love, and me ?

I am their mother, Who shall bar me from them ?

Dutch. I am their father's mother, I will see them.

Anne. Their aunt am I in law, in love their mother :
Then bring me to their fights ; I'll bear thy blame,
And take thy office from thee, on my peril.

Brak. No, madam, no, ³ I may not leave it so ;
I am bound by oath, and therefore pardon me.

[*Exit Brakenbury.*]

Enter Stanley.

Stanl. Let me but meet you, ladies, one hour hence,
And I'll salute your grace of York as mother,
And reverend looker-on, of two fair queens.—

Come, madam, you must straight to Westminster,

[*To the Dutchess of Gloster.*]

There to be crowned Richard's royal queen.

Queen. Ah, cut my lace afunder !

That my pent heart may have some scope to beat,
Or else I swoon with this dead-killing news.

Anne. Despightful tidings ! O unpleasing news !

Dor. Be of good cheer :—Mother, how fares your
grace ?

Queen. O Dorset, speak not to me, get thee gone,
Death and destruction dog thee at the heels ;

Thy mother's name is ominous to children :

If thou wilt out-strip death, go cross the seas,

And live with Richmond, from the reach of hell.

³ —*I may not leave it so.*] That is, *I may not so resign my office,*
which you offer to take on you at your peril. JOHNSON.

Go,

Go, hie thee, hie thee from this slaughter-house,
Lest thou encrease the number of the dead ;
And make me die the thrall of Margaret's curse,—
Nor mother, wife, nor England's counted queen.

Stanl. Full of wife care is this your counsel, madam :—
Take all the swift advantage of the hours ;
You shall have letters from me to my son
In your behalf, to meet you on the way :
Be not ta'en tardy by unwise delay.

Dutch. O ill-dispersing wind of misery !—
O my accursed womb, the bed of death ;
A cockatrice hast thou hatch'd to the world,
Whose unavoyded eye is murderous !

Stanl. Come, madam, come ; I in all haste was sent.

Anne. And I with all unwillingness will go.—
O, would to God, that the inclusive verge
Of golden metal, that must round my brow,
Were red-hot steel, to sear me to the brain ⁴ !
Anointed let me be with deadly venom ;
And die, ere men can say—God save the queen !

Queen. Go, go, poor soul, I envy not thy glory ;
To feed my humour, with thyself no harm.

Anne. No ! why ?—When he, that is my husband
now,
Came to me, as I follow'd Henry's corse ;
When scarce the blood was well wash'd from his hands,

⁴ *Were red-hot steel, to sear me to the brain !*] She seems to allude to the ancient mode of punishing a regicide, viz. by placing a crown of iron heated red-hot, upon his head. In the *Tragedy of Hoffman*, 1631, this punishment is introduced :

“ Fix on thy master's head my *burning crown*.”

Again :

“ And wear his crown made hot with flaming fire.
“ Bring forth the *burning crown* there.”

Again :

“ ——— was adjudg'd
“ To have his head *scar'd* with a *burning crown*.”

In some of the monkish accounts of a place of future torment, a *burning crown* is appropriated to those who deprived any lawful monarch of his kingdom. STEEVENS.

Which

Which issu'd from my other angel husband,
 And that dead saint which then I weeping follow'd ;
 O, when, I say, I look'd on Richard's face,
 This was my wish,—*Be thou, quoth I, accurs'd,*
For making me, so young, so old a widow !
And, when thou wed'st, let sorrow haunt thy bed ;
And be thy wife (if any be so mad)
More miserable by the life of thee,
Than thou hast made me by my dear lord's death !
 Lo, ere I can repeat this curse again,
 Even in so short a space, my woman's heart
 Grossly grew captive to his honey words,
 And prov'd the subject of mine own soul's curse :
 Which ever since hath held mine eyes from rest ;
 For never yet one hour in his bed
 Did I enjoy the golden dew of sleep,
⁵ But with his timorous dreams was still awak'd.
 Besides, he hates me for my father Warwick ;
 And will, no doubt, shortly be rid of me.

Queen. Poor heart, adieu ; I pity thy complaining.

Anne. No more than with my soul I mourn for yours.

Dor. Farewel, thou woful welcomer of glory !

Anne. Adieu, poor soul, that tak'st thy leave of it !

Dutch. Go thou to Richmond, and good fortune
 guide thee !—

[*To Dorset.*

Go thou to Richard, and good angels tend thee !—

[*To Anne.*

Go thou to sanctuary, and good thoughts possess thee !

[*To the Queen.*

I to my grave, where peace and rest lie with me !

Eighty odd years of sorrow have I seen,

And each hour's joy wreck'd with a week of teen ⁶.

⁵ But with his timorous dreams——] 'Tis recorded by Polydore Virgil, that Richard was frequently disturbed by terrible dreams: this is therefore no fiction. JOHNSON.

⁶ ——— of teen.] Teen is sorrow. So, in *Romeo and Juliet*:

“ And yet to my teen be it spoken, &c.”

Again, in the *Return from Parnassus*, 1606:

“ Flies have their spleen, each silly ant his teens.”

STEEVENS.

Queen.

Queen. Stay yet ; look back, with me, unto the
Tower.—

Pity, you ancient stones, those tender babes,
Whom envy hath immur'd within your walls !
Rough cradle for such little pretty ones !
7 Rude ragged nurse ! old fullen play-fellow
For tender princes, use my babies well !
So foolish sorrow bids your stones farewell ⁸. [*Exeunt.*

S C E N E II.

The court.

Flourish of trumpets. Enter Richard, as King, Buckingham, Catesby, a Page, and others.

K. Rich. Stand all apart.—Cousin of Buckingham,—

Buck. My gracious sovereign.

K. Rich. Give me thy hand. Thus high, by thy
advice,

And thy assistance, is king Richard seated :—

But shall we wear these glories for a day ?

Or shall they last, and we rejoice in them ?

Buck. Still live they, and for ever let them last !

K. Rich. ⁹ Ah, Buckingham, now do I play the
touch,

To

⁷ *Rude ragged nurse ! old fullen play-fellow*] To call the Tower nurse and playfellow is very harsh : perhaps part of this speech is addressed to the Tower, and part to the lieutenant. JOHNSON.

⁸ *So foolish sorrow bids your stones farewell.*] Hither the third act should be extended, and here it very properly ends with a pause of action. JOHNSON.

⁹ *Ah, Buckingham, now do I play the touch,*] The technical term is requisite here. The poet wrote :

—now do I'ply the touch,

i. e. apply the touchstone ; for that is meant by what he calls touch.
So,

To try if thou be current gold, indeed :—

Young Edward lives ;—Think now what I would speak.

Buck. Say on, my loving lord.

K. Rich. Why, Buckingham, I say, I would be king.

Buck. Why, so you are, my thrice-renowned liege.

K. Rich. Ha ! am I king ? 'Tis so : but Edward lives.

Buck. True, noble prince.

K. Rich. O bitter consequence,

That Edward still should live—true ! noble prince !—

Cousin, thou wast not wont to be so dull :—

Shall I be plain ? I wish the bastards dead ;

And I would have it suddenly perform'd.

What say'st thou now ? speak suddenly, be brief.

Buck. Your grace may do your pleasure.

K. Rich. Tut, tut, thou art all ice, thy kindness freezes :

Say, have I thy consent, that they shall die ?

Buck. Give me some breath, some little pause, dear lord,

Before I positively speak in this :

I will resolve your grace immediately.

[*Exit Buckingham.*]

So, again, in *Timon of Athens*, speaking of gold, he says :

———*O, thou touch of hearts !*

i. e. thou trial, touchstone. *WARBURTON.*

To play the touch is to represent the touchstone. No emendation is necessary.

So, in the 16th Song of Drayton's *Polyolbion*:

" With alabaster, *tuch*, and porphyry adorn'd,"

Again, in the epistle of *Mary the French Queen* to *Charles Brandon*, by Drayton :

" Before mine eye, like *touch*, thy shape did prove."

Again, in Spenser's *Faery Queen*, B. I. c. iii :

" Though true as *touch*, though daughter of a king."

STEEVENS.

Cates. The king is angry ; see, he gnaws his lip¹.

K. Rich. I will converse with iron-witted fools,
And unrespective boys² ; none are for me,
That look into me with confiderate eyes :—
High-reaching Buckingham grows circumspect.—
Boy,——

Page. My lord.

K. Rich. Know'st thou not any, whom corrupting
gold
Would tempt unto a³ close exploit of death ?

Page. I know a discontented gentleman,
Whose humble means match not his haughty mind :
Gold were as good as twenty orators,
And will, no doubt, tempt him to any thing.

K. Rich. What is his name ?

Page. His name, my lord, is—Tyrrel.

K. Rich. I partly know the man ; Go, call him hi-
ther, boy.— [Exit boy.

The deep-revolving witty⁴ Buckingham
No more shall be the neighbour to my counsels :
Hath he so long held out with me untir'd,
And stops he now for breath ?—well, be it so.——

¹ ——*see, he gnaws his lip.*] Several of our ancient historians observe, that this was an accustomed action of Richard, whether he was pensive or angry. STEEVENS.

² *And unrespective boys ; ——*] *Unrespective* is inattentive, taking no notice, inconsiderate.

So, in *Daniel's Cleopatra*, 1599 :

“ When dissolute impiety possess'd

“ The *unrespective* minds of prince and people.”

STEEVENS.

³ ——*close exploit ——*] is secret act. JOHNSON.

⁴ ——*witty*] in this place signifies *judicious* or cunning. A *wit* was not at this time employed to signify a man of fancy, but was used for wisdom or judgment. So, in *Daniel's Cleopatra*, 1599 :

“ Although unwise to live, had wit to die.”

Again :

“ And at her feet do witty serpents move.”

One of Ben Jonson's *Masques*. STEEVENS.

Enter Stanley.

How now, lord Stanley? what's the news?

Stanl. Know, my loving lord,
The marquis Dorset, as I hear, is fled
To Richmond, in the parts where he abides.

K. Rich. Come hither, Catesby: rumour it abroad,
That Anne my wife is very grievous sick;
I will take order for her keeping close.
Enquire me out some mean-born gentleman,
Whom I will marry straight to Clarence's daughter:—
The boy is foolish, and I fear not him.—
Look, how thou dream'st!—I say again, give out,
That Anne my queen is sick, and like to die:
About it; for it stands me much upon,
To stop all hopes, whose growth may damage me.—

[Exit Catesby.]

I must be marry'd to my brother's daughter,
Or else my kingdom stands on brittle glass:—
Murder her brothers, and then marry her!
Uncertain way of gain! But I am in
So far in blood, that sin will pluck on sin.
Tear-falling pity dwells not in this eye.—

Enter Tyrrel.

Is thy name—Tyrrel?

Tyr.

^s ——— But I am in

So far in blood, that sin will pluck on sin.]

The same reflections occur in *Macbeth*:

“—— I am in blood

“Step'd in so far, that should I wade no more,

“Returning were as tedious, &c.

Again:

“Things bad begun make strong themselves by ill.” STEEVENS.

⁶ *Is thy name—Tyrrel?*] It seems, that a late editor (who boasts much of his fidelity in “marking the places of action, both general and particular, and supplying scenical directions”) throughout this scene, has left king Richard on his throne; whereas he might have learnt

KING RICHARD III. 111

Tyr. James Tyrrel, and your most obedient subject.

K. Rich. Art thou, indeed?

Tyr. Prove me, my gracious lord.

K. Rich. Dar'st thou resolve to kill a friend of mine?

Tyr. Please you; but I had rather kill two enemies.

K. Rich. Why, then thou hast it; two deep enemies,

Foes to my rest, and my sweet sleep's disturbers,
Are they that I would have thee deal upon:

Tyrrel, I mean those bastards in the Tower.

Tyr. Let me have open means to come to them,
And soon I'll rid you from the fear of them.

K. Rich. Thou sing'st sweet musick. Hark, come
hither, Tyrrel;

Go, by this token:—Rise, and lend thine ear:

[*Whispers.*]

There is no more but so:—Say, it is done,
And I will love thee, and prefer thee for it.

Tyr. I will dispatch it straight. [Exit.]

Re-enter Buckingham.

Buck. My lord, I have consider'd in my mind
That late demand that you did sound me in.

K. Rich. Well, let that rest. Dorset is fled to
Richmond.

Buck. I hear the news, my lord.

learnt from the following passage in sir John Harrington's *Metamorphosis of Ajax*, 1596, that the monarch appeared, during the present interview with Tyrrel, on *an elevation of much less dignity*. "The best part (says sir John) of our chronicles, in all men's opinions is that of Richard the third, written as I have heard by Moorton, but as most suppose, by that worthy and incorrupt magistrate sir Thomas More, sometime lord chancellor of England, where it is said, how the king was devising with Teril to have his nephews privily murdered; and it is added, *he was then sitting on a draught*; a fit carpet for such a counsel." See likewise *Holinshed*, vol. ii. p. 735. STEEVENS.

K. Rich.

K. Rich. Stanley, he is your wife's son :—Well,
look to it.

Buck. My lord, I claim the gift, my due by promise,

For which your honour and your faith is pawn'd ;
The earldom of Hereford, and the moveables,
Which you have promised I shall possess.

K. Rich. Stanley, look to your wife ; if she convey
Letters to Richmond, you shall answer it.

Buck. What says your highness to my just request ?

K. Rich. I do remember me,—Henry the sixth
Did prophesy, that Richmond should be king,
When Richmond was a little peevish boy.

? A king !—perhaps—

Buck. My lord,—

K. Rich. How chance, the prophet could not at
that time.

Have told me, I being by, that I should kill him ?

Buck. My lord, your promise for the earldom,—

K. Rich. Richmond !—When last I was at Exeter,
The mayor in courtly shew'd me the castle,
And call'd it—Rouge-mont : at which name, I
started ;

Because a bard of Ireland told me once,
I should not live long after I saw Richmond.

Buck. My lord,—

K. Rich. Ay, what's o'clock ?

Buck. I am thus bold to put your grace in mind
Of what you promis'd me.

K. Rich. Well, but what's o'clock ?

Buck. Upon the stroke of ten.

K. Rich. Well, let it strike.

Buck. Why let it strike ?

? A king ! perhaps—] From hence to the words, *Thou troublest me, I am not in the vein*—have been left out ever since the first editions, but I like them well enough to replace them. POPE.

The allusions to the plays of *Henry VI.* are no weak proofs of the authenticity of these disputed pieces. JOHNSON.

K. Rich.

K. Rich. * Because that, like a Jack, thou keep'st
the stroke

Betwixt thy begging and my meditation.

I am not in the giving vein to-day.

Buck. Why, then resolve me whe'r you will, or no.

K. Rich. Thou troublest me ; I am not in the vein.

Exit.

* *Because, that, like a Jack, &c.*] This passage, though I do not believe it corrupted, I do not understand. JOHNSON.

Because that, like a Jack, &c.] An image, like those at St. Dunstan's church in Fleet-street, and at the market-houses at several towns in this kingdom, was usually called a *Jack of the clock-house*. See Cowley's *Discourse on the Government of Oliver Cromwell*. Richard resembles Buckingham to one of those automaton, and bids him not suspend the stroke on the clock-bell, but strike, that the hour may be past, and himself be at liberty to pursue his meditations. Sir J. HAWKINS.

So, in *The Fleire*, a comedy, 1610 :—" their tongues are, like a *Jack o' the clock*, still in labour."

Again, in *The Coxcomb*, by Beaumont and Fletcher :

" — Is this your *Jack o' the clock-house* ?

" Will you *strike*, sir ?"

Again, in a pamphlet by Decker, called the *Guls Hornbook*, 1609 : " —but howsoever, if Powles *Jacks* be once up with their elbowes, and quarrelling to strike eleven, as soon as ever the clock has parted them, and ended the fray with his hammer, let not the duke's gallery conteyne you any longer."

Perhaps these figures were called *Jacks*, because the engines of that name which turn the spit were anciently ornamented with such a puppet. In the *Gentleman Usher*, a comedy by Chapman, 1606, they are alluding to a roasting *Jack*, and a man says :

" —as in that quaint engine you have seen

" *A little man in shreds* stand at the winder,

" And seem to put all things in act about him,

" Lifting and pulling with a mighty stir,

" Yet adds no force to it, nor nothing does."

In *Lantern and Candle-light*, or the *Bellman's Second Night-walk*, &c. by Decker, is a passage " of a new and cunning drawing of money from gentlemen," which may tend to a somewhat different explanation. " There is another fraternitie of wandering pilgrims, who merrily call themselves *Jacks of the Clock-house*. The *jacke of a clock-house* goes upon screws, and his office is to do nothing but *strike* : so does this noise (for they walke up and down like fiddlers) traivle with motions, and whatever their motions get them, is called *striking*." STEEVENS,

Buck. Is it even so? repays he my deep service
 With such contempt? made I him king for this?
 O, let me think on Hastings; and be gone
 To Brecknock, while my fearful head is on. [*Exit.*]

S C E N E III.

Enter Tyrrel.

Tyr. The tyrannous and bloody act is done;
 The most arch deed of piteous massacre,
 That ever yet this land was guilty of.
 Dighton, and Forrest, whom I did suborn
 To do this piece of ruthless butchery,
 Albeit they were flesh'd villains, bloody dogs,
 Melting with tenderneſs and mild compaſſion,
 Wept like two children, in their deaths' ſad ſtory.
O thus, quoth Dighton, lay the gentle babes,—
Thus, thus, quoth Forrest, girdling one another
Within their alabaſter innocent arms:
Their lips were four red roſes on a ſtalk,
Which, in their ſummer beauty, kiſſ'd each other.
A book of prayers on their pillow lay;
Which once, quoth Forrest, almoſt chang'd my mind:
But, O, the devil—there the villain ſtopp'd;
When Dighton thus told on,—we ſmothered
The moſt replenish'd ſweet work of nature,
That, from the prime creation, e'er ſhe fram'd.—
 Hence both are gone with conſcience and remorse,
 They could not ſpeak; and ſo I left them both,
 To bear theſe tidings to the bloody king.

Enter king Richard.

And here he comes:—All health, my ſovereign lord!

K. Rich. Kind Tyrrel! am I happy in thy news?

Tyr. If to have done the thing you gave in charge
 Beget

Beget your happiness, be happy then,
For it is done.

K. Rich. But didst thou see them dead?

Tyr. I did my lord.

K. Rich. And buried, gentle Tyrrel?

Tyr. The chaplain of the Tower hath buried them;
But where, to say the truth, I do not know.

K. Rich. Come to me, Tyrrel, soon at after supper,
When thou shalt tell the process of their death.
Mean time, but think how I may do thee good,
And be inheritor of thy desire.
Farewel, 'till then.

Tyr. I humbly take my leave. [*Exit.*]

K. Rich. The son of Clarence have I pen'd up
close;

His daughter meanly have I match'd in marriage;
The sons of Edward sleep in Abraham's bosom,
And Anne my wife hath bid the world good night.
Now, for I know the Bretagne Richmond aims
At young Elizabeth, my brother's daughter,
And, by that knot, looks proudly on the crown,
To her go I, a jolly thriving wooer.

Enter Catesby.

Cates. My lord,—

K. Rich. Good news or bad, that thou com'st in so
bluntly?

Cates. Bad news, my lord: Morton is fled to Rich-
mond;

And Buckingham, back'd with the hardy Welshmen,
Is in the field, and still his power encreaseth.

K. Rich. Ely with Richmond troubles me more
near,
Than Buckingham and his rash-levied strength.
Come,—I have learn'd, that ⁹ fearful commenting
Is

⁹ ———fearful commenting
Is leaden servitor———
12

Is leaden servitor to dull delay ;
 Delay leads impotent and snail-pac'd beggary :
 Then fiery expedition be my wing,
 Jove's Mercury, and herald for a king !
 Go, muster men : My counsel is my shield ;
 We must be brief, when traitors brave the field.

[*Exit.*]

S C E N E IV.

Enter Queen Margaret.

Q. Mar. So, now prosperity begins to mellow¹,
 And drop into the rotten mouth of death.
 Here in these confines flily have I lurk'd,
 To watch the waining of mine enemies.
 A² dire induction am I witness to,
 And will to France ; hoping, the consequence
 Will prove as bitter, black, and tragical.
 Withdraw thee, wretched Margaret ! who comes
 here ?

Enter the Queen, and the Dutchess of York.

Queen. Ah, my poor princes ! ah, my tender babes !
 My unblown flowers, new-appearing sweets !
 If yet your gentle souls fly in the air,
 And be not fix'd in doom perpetual,
 Hover about me with your airy wings,
 And hear your mother's lamentation !

Timorous thought and cautious disquisition are the dull attendants
 on delay. JOHNSON.

¹ ——— *begins to mellow, &c.*] The same thought occurs in
 Marston's *Antonio and Mellida*, 1602 :

“ ——— now is his fate grown mellow,

“ Instant to fall into the rotten jaws

“ Of chap-fall'n death.” STEEVENS.

² — *dire induction* —] *Induction* is preface, introduction, first
 part. It is so used by Sackville in our author's time. JOHNSON.

Q. Mar.

KING RICHARD III. 117

Q. Mar. Hover about her; ³ say, that right for right
Hath dimm'd your infant morn to aged night.

Dutch. So many miseries have craz'd my voice,
That my woe-wearied tongue is still and mute.—
Edward Plantagenet, why art thou dead?

Q. Mar. Plantagenet doth quit Plantagenet,
Edward for Edward pays a dying debt.

Queen. Wilt thou, O God, fly from such gentle
lambs,
And throw them in the entrails of the wolf?

Why didst thou sleep, when such a deed was done?

Q. Mar. When holy Henry dy'd, and my sweet son?

Dutch. Dead life, blind sight, poor mortal living
ghost,
Woe's scene, world's shame, grave's due by life
usurp'd,

Brief abstract and record of tedious days,
Rest thy unrest on England's lawful earth,

[*Sitting down.*

Unlawfully made drunk with innocent blood!

Queen. Ah, that thou wouldst as soon afford a grave,
As thou canst yield a melancholy feat;
Then would I hide my bones, not rest them here!
Ah, who hath any cause to mourn, but we?

[*Sitting down by her.*

Q. Mar. If ancient sorrow be most reverent,

³ ——— say, that right for right] It's plain Shakespeare
wrote:

——— wrong for wrong

but the players thought a little rhyme was better than all reason.

WARBURTON.

It is so unlikely that words so plain and so proper, as *wrong for wrong* would have been either ignorantly or officiously changed, that I believe *right for right* is the true though not the best reading. This is one of these conceits which our author may be suspected of loving better than propriety. *Right for right is justice answering to the claims of justice.* So, in this play:

——— That forehead

Where should be branded, if that right were right.—

JOHNSON.

118 KING RICHARD III.

Give mine the benefit of ⁴ signiory,
And let my griefs frown on the upper hand.

[*Sitting down with them.*]

If sorrow can admit society,
Tell o'er your woes again by viewing mine :—
I had an Edward, 'till a Richard kill'd him ;
I had a husband, 'till a Richard kill'd him :
Thou had'st an Edward, 'till a Richard kill'd him ;
Thou had'st a Richard, 'till a Richard kill'd him.

Dutch. I had a Richard too, and thou did'st kill
him ;

I had a Rutland too, thou help'st to kill him.

Q. Mar. Thou had'st a Clarence too, and Richard
kill'd him.

From forth the kennel of thy womb hath crept
A hell-hound, that doth hunt us all to death :
That dog that had his teeth before his eyes,
To worry lambs, and lap their gentle blood ;
That foul defacer of God's handy-work ;
That excellent grand tyrant of the earth,
That reigns in galled eyes of weeping souls ⁵ ;
Thy womb let loose, to chase us to our graves.—
O upright, just, and true-disposing God,
How do I thank thee, that this carnal cur
Preys on the issue of his mother's body,
And makes her ⁶ pue-fellow with others' moan !

Dutch.

⁴ — *signiory* ;] for *seniority*. JOHNSON.

So, in *Stowe's Chronicle*, edit. 1615, p. 149 :

“ — the son of Edmund, the son of Edward the *seignior*, the son of Alured, &c.” STEEVENS.

⁵ *That reigns* &c.] This and the preceding line have been omitted by all the modern editors, Rowe excepted. STEEVENS.

⁶ *And makes her pue-fellow*—] *Pue-fellow* seems to be companion. We have now a new phrase, nearly equivalent, by which we say of persons in the same difficulties, that they are in the *same box*. JOHNSON.

Pue-fellow is a word yet in use. Sir J. HAWKINS.

In find the word in *Northward Hoe*, a comedy, by Decker and Webster, 1607 :

“ He would make him *pue-fellow* with a lord's steward at least.”

Again,

Dutch. O, Harry's wife, triumph not in my woes ;
God witness with me, I have wept for thine.

Q. Mar. Bear with me ; I am hungry for revenge,
And now I cloy me with beholding it.

Thy Edward he is dead, that kill'd my Edward ;

Thy other Edward dead, to 'quit my Edward ;

⁷ Young York he is but boot, because both they
Match not the high perfection of my loss.

Thy Clarence he is dead, that stabb'd my Edward ;
And the beholders of this tragic play,

⁸ The adulterate Hastings, Rivers, Vaughan, Grey,
Untimely smother'd in their dusky graves.

Richard yet lives, hell's black intelligencer ;

Only reserv'd their factor, to buy souls,

And send them thither : But at hand, at hand ;

Ensues his piteous and unpitied end :

Earth gapes, hell burns, fiends roar, faints pray,

To have him suddenly convey'd from hence :—

Cancel his bond of life, dear God, I pray,

That I may live to say, The dog is dead !

Queen. O, thou didst prophesy, the time would
come,

Again, in a comedy, by Decker, called, *If this be not a good
Play the Devil is in it :*

“ Lose not a minute, *pue-fellow*, &c.”

Again, in Decker's *Satiromastix :*

“ Come, *pue-fellow*.”

Again, in *Westward-Hoe*, by Decker and Webster, 1606 :

“ —being both my scholars, and your honest *pue-fellows*.”

STEEVENS.

⁷ *Young York he is but boot* —] *Boot* is that which is thrown
in to mend a purchase. JOHNSON.

⁸ *The adulterate Hastings*, —] I believe Shakespeare wrote :

The adulterer Hastings, — WARBURTON.

Adulterate is right. We say *metals* are *adulterate* ; and *adulterate* sometimes means the same as *adulterer*. In either sense, on this occasion, the epithet will suit. Hastings was *adulterate*, as Margaret had try'd his friendship and found it faithless ; he was an *adulterer*, as he cohabited with Jane Shore during the life of her husband. So, the Ghost in *Hamlet*, speaking of the King, says :

“ —that incestuous, that *adulterate* beast.” STEEVENS.

That I should wish for thee to help me curse
That bottled spider, that foul bunch-back'd toad.

Q. Mar. I call'd thee then, vain flourish of my
fortune ;

I call'd thee then, poor shadow, painted queen ;
The presentation of but what I was,

' The flattering index of a direful pageant,
One heav'd a high, to be hurl'd down below :

A mother only mock'd with two fair babes ;

A dream of what thou wast ; a garish flag²,

To be the aim of every dangerous shot ;

A sign of dignity, a breath, a bubble ;

A queen in jest, only to fill the scene,

Where is thy husband now ? where be thy brothers ?

Where be thy two sons ? wherein dost thou joy ?

Who sues, and kneels, and says—God save the queen ?

Where be the bending peers that flatter'd thee ?

Where be the thronging troops that follow'd thee ?

Decline all this, and see what now thou art.

For happy wife, a most distressed widow ;

For joytul mother, one that wails the name ;

For one being su'd to, one that humbly sues ;

For queen, a very caitiff crown'd with care :

For one that scorn'd at me, now scorn'd of me ;

² *The flatt'ring index of a direful pageant,*] Without doubt
Shakespeare wrote :

———*direful page.* WARBURTON.

Surely there is no need of change. *Pageants* are dumb shews, and the poet meant to allude to one of these, the index of which promised a happier conclusion. The pageants then displayed on public occasions were generally preceded by a brief account of the order in which the characters were to walk. These indexes were distributed among the spectators, that they might understand the meaning of such allegorical stuff as was usually exhibited. The index of every book was anciently placed before the beginning of it.

STEEVENS.

² ———*a garish flag,*

To be the aim of every dangerous shot ;]

Alluding to the dangerous situation of those persons to whose care the standards of armies were entrusted. STEEVENS.

For

For one being fear'd of all, now fearing one ;
 For one commanding all, obey'd of none.
 Thus hath the courſe of juſtice wheel'd about ²,
 And left thee but a very prey to time ;
 Having no more but thought of what thou wert,
 To torture thee the more, being what thou art.
 Thou didſt uſurp my place, And doſt thou not
 Uſurp the juſt proportion of my ſorrow ?
 Now thy proud neck bears half my burden'd yoke ;
 From which even here I flip my wearied head,
 And leave the burden of it all on thee.

Farewel, York's wife,—and queen of ſad miſchance,—
 Theſe Engliſh woes ſhall make me ſmile in France.

Queen. O thou well ſkill'd in curſes ! ſtay a while,
 And teach me how to curſe mine enemies.

Q. Mar. Forbear to ſleep the night, and faſt the
 day ;

Compare dead happineſs with living woe ;
 Think that thy babes were fairer than they were,
 And he, that ſlew them, fouler than he is :
 Bettering thy loſs makes the bad cauſer worſe ;
 Revolving this will teach thee how to curſe.

Queen. My words are dull, O, quicken them with
 thine !

Q. Mar. Thy woes will make them ſharp, and
 pierce like mine. [*Exit Margaret.*]

Dutch. Why ſhould calamity be full of words ?

Queen. ³ Windy attorneys to their client woes,
⁴ Airy ſucceeders of inteſtate joys,

Poor

² —wheel'd about,] Thus the quartos. The folio—*whirl'd*
 about. STEEVENS.

³ *Windy attorneys to their client woes,*] In former editions this
 line was read thus :

Windy attorneys to your client's woes.

The emendation is fir Thomas Hanmer's. JOHNSON.

⁴ *Airy ſucceeders of inteſtine joys,*] I cannot underſtand this read-
 ing. I have adopted another from the quarto in 1597 :

Airy ſucceeders of inteſtate joys :

122 KING RICHARD III.

Poor breathing orators of miseries !

Let them have scope : though what they do impart
Help nothing else, yet they do ease the heart.

Dutch. If so, then be not tongue-ty'd : go with me,
And in the breath of bitter words let's smother
My damned son, that thy two sweet sons smother'd.

[*Drum, within.*

I hear his drum,—be copious in exclams.

Enter King Richard, and his train, marching.

K. Rich. Who intercepts me in my expedition ?

Dutch. O, she, that might have intercepted thee,
By strangling thee in her accursed womb,
From all the slaughters, wretch, that thou hast done.

Queen. Hid'st thou that forehead with a golden
crown,

Where should be branded, if that right were right,
The slaughter of the prince that ow'd that crown,
And the dire death of my poor sons, and brothers ?
Tell me, thou villain-flave, where are my children ?

Dutch. Thou toad, thou toad, where is thy brother
Clarence ?

And little Ned Plantagenet, his son ?

Queen. Where is the gentle Rivers, Vaughan, Grey ?

Dutch. Where is kind Hastings ?

K. Rich. A flourish, trumpets ! — strike alarum,
drums !

Let not the heavens hear these tell-tale women

Rail on the Lord's anointed : Strike, I say.—

[*Flourish. Alarums.*

Either be patient, and entreat me fair,

Or with the clamorous report of war

Thus will I drown your exclamations.

Dutch. Art thou my son ?

i. e. words, tun'd to complaints, succeed joys that are dead ; and
unbequeath'd to them, to whom they should properly descend.

THEOBALD.

K. Rich.

KING RICHARD III. 123

K. Rich. Ay; I thank God, my father, and yourself.

Dutch. Then patiently hear my impatience.

K. Rich. Madam, I have^s a touch of your condition,
That cannot brook the accent of reproof.

Dutch. O, let me speak.

K. Rich. Do, then; but I'll not hear.

Dutch. I will be mild and gentle in my words.

K. Rich. And brief, good mother; for I am in
haste.

Dutch. Art thou so hasty? I have staid for thee,
God knows, in torment and in agony.

K. Rich. And came I not at last to comfort you?

Dutch. No, by the holy rood, thou know'st it well,
Thou cam'st on earth to make the earth my hell.

A grievous burden was thy birth to me;

Tetchy and wayward was thy infancy;

Thy school-days, frightful, desperate, wild, and
furious,

Thy prime of manhood, daring, bold, and venturous;

Thy age confirm'd, proud, subtle, sly, and bloody,

More mild, but yet more harmful, kind in hatred:

What comfortable hour canst thou name,

⁶ That ever grac'd me in thy company?

K. Rich. Faith, none, but Humphry Houre⁷, that
call'd your grace

To

^s —a touch of your condition,] A *spice* or *particle* of your temper or disposition. JOHNSON.

So, in Chapman's translation of the 24th *Iliad*:

“ —his cold blood embrac'd a fiery touch

“ Of anger, &c. STEEVENS.

⁶ That ever grac'd me —] To *grace* seems here to mean the same as to *bless*, to make happy. So, *gracious* is kind, and *graces* are favours. JOHNSON.

⁷ —Humphry Houre,—] This may probably be an allusion to some affair of gallantry of which the dutchess had been suspected. I cannot find the name in Holinshed. Surely the poet's fondness for a quibble has not induced him at once to personify

To breakfast once, forth of my company.
If I be so disgracious in your sight,

sonify and christen that *hour* of the day which summon'd his mother to breakfast.

So, in *The Wit of a Woman*, 1592:

“Gentlemen, time makes us brief: our old mistress, *Hour* is at hand.”

The common cant phrase of *dining with duke Humphrey*, I have never yet heard satisfactorily explained. It appears, however, from a satirical pamphlet called the *Guls Horn-booke*, 1609, written by T. Decker, that in the ancient church of St. Paul, one of the aisles was called *Duke Humphrey's Walk*; in which those who had no means of procuring a dinner, affected to loiter. Decker concludes his fourth chapter thus: “By this, I imagine you have walked your bellyful, and therupon being weary, or (which is rather, I beleeeve) being most gentleman-like, hungry, it is fit that as I brought you unto the *duke*, so (because he followes the fashion of great men in *keeping no house*, and that therefore you must *go seeke your dinner*) suffer me to take you by the hand and leade you into an ordinary.” The title of this chapter is, “How a gallant should behave himselfe in *Powles Walkes*.”

Hall, in the 7th *Satire*, B. III. seems to confirm this interpretation:

“’Tis Ruffio: Trow’st thou where he din’d to-day?

“In sooth I saw him sit with *duke Humfray*:

“Manie good welcoms, and much gratis cheere,

“Keepes he for everie stragling cavaliere;

“An open house haunted with greate resort,

“*Long service* mixt with *musicall disport*, &c.”

Hall’s *Satires*, Edit. 1602, p. 60.

See likewise *Foure Letters* and certain *Sonnets*, by Gabriel Harvey, 1592:

“——to seeke his dinner in Poules with *duke Humphrey*: to like dishes, to be a beggar.”

Again, in the *Return of the Knight of the Post*, &c. by Nash, 1606: “——in the end comming into Poules, to behold the old *duke* and his *guests*, &c.”

Again, in *A wonderful, strange, and miraculous Prognostication, for this Year*, &c. 1591, by Nash: “——sundry fellowes in their filkes shall be appointed to keepe *duke Humfrye* company in Poules, because they know not where to get their dinners abroad.”

If it be objected that *duke Humphrey* was buried at St. Albans, let it likewise be remember’d that cenotaphs were not uncommon.

STEEVENS.

Let

Let me march on, and not offend you, madam.—
Strike up the drum.

Dutch. I pry'thee, hear me speak.

K. Rich. You speak too bitterly.

Dutch. Hear me a word;

For I shall never speak to thee again.

K. Rich. So.

Dutch. Either thou wilt die, by God's just ordinance,
Ere from this war thou turn a conqueror;
Or I with grief and extreme age shall perish,
And never look upon thy face again.
Therefore, take with thee my most heavy curse;
Which, in the day of battle, tire thee more,
Than all the compleat armour that thou wear'st!
My prayers on the adverse party fight;
And there the little souls of Edward's children
Whisper the spirits of thine enemies,
And promise them success and victory!
Bloody thou art, bloody will be thy end;
Shame serves thy life, and doth thy death attend.

[*Exit.*

Queen. Though far more cause, yet much less spirit to curse

Abides in me; I say amen to her.

[*Going.*

K. Rich. Stay, madam, I must speak a word with you.

Queen. I have no more sons of the royal blood,
For thee to murder: for my daughters, Richard,—
They shall be praying nuns, not weeping queens;
And therefore level not to hit their lives.

K. Rich. You have a daughter call'd—Elizabeth,
Virtuous and fair, royal and gracious.

Queen. And must she die for this? O, let her live;

* *Shame serves thy life, —*] To serve is to accompany, servants being near the persons of their masters. JOHNSON.

* *Stay, madam, —*] On this dialogue 'tis not necessary to bestow much criticism: part of it is ridiculous, and the whole improbable. JOHNSON.

And

And I'll corrupt her manners, stain her beauty ;
Slander myself, as false to Edward's bed ;
Throw over her the veil of infamy :

So she may live unscarr'd of bleeding slaughter,
I will confess she was not Edward's daughter.

K. Rich. Wrong not her birth, she is of royal blood ¹.

Queen. To save her life, I'll say—she is not so.

K. Rich. Her life is safest only in her birth.

Queen. And only in that safety dy'd her brothers.

K. Rich. Lo, at their births good stars were opposite ².

Queen. No, to their lives bad friends were contrary.

K. Rich. All unavoided is the doom of destiny.

Queen. True, when avoided grace makes destiny :
My babes were destin'd to a fairer death,
If grace had bless'd thee with a fairer life.

K. Rich. You speak, as if that I had slain my
cousins.

Queen. Cousins, indeed ; and by their uncle cozen'd
Of comfort, kingdom, kindred, freedom, life.
Whose hands soever lanc'd their tender hearts,
Thy head, all indirectly, gave direction :
No doubt the murderous knife was dull and blunt,
'Till it was whetted on thy stone-hard heart ³ ;
To revel in the entrails of my lambs.

¹ ——— *she is of royal blood.*] The folio reads—*she is a royal princess.* STEEVENS.

² *Lo, at their births—*] Perhaps we should read—*No, at their births—* TYRWHITT.

³ *Till it was whetted on thy stone-hard heart,*] This conceit seems to have been a great favourite of Shakespeare. We meet with it more than once. In *K. Henry IV.* 2d Part :

“ *Thou bid'st a thousand daggers in thy thoughts,*

“ *Which thou hast whetted on thy stony heart,*

“ *To stab, &c.*”

Again, in the *Merchant of Venice* :

“ *Not on thy foal, but on thy soul, harsh Jew,*

“ *Thou mak'st thy knife keen—*” STEEVENS.

But that still use of grief makes wild grief tame,
My tongue should to thy ears not name my boys,
'Till that my nails were anchor'd in thine eyes ;
And I, in such a desperate bay of death,
Like a poor bark, of sails and tackling reft,
Rush all to pieces on thy rocky bosom.

K. Rich. Madam, so thrive I in my enterprize,
And dangerous successes of bloody wars,
As I intend more good to you and yours,
That ever you or yours by me were harm'd !

Queen. What good is cover'd with the face of heaven,
To be discover'd, that can do me good ?

K. Rich. The advancement of your children, gentle lady.

Queen. Up to some scaffold, there to lose their heads.

K. Rich. No, to the dignity and height of fortune,
* The high imperial type of this earth's glory.

Queen. Flatter my sorrows with report of it ;
Tell me, what state, what dignity, what honour,
5 Canst thou demise to any child of mine ?

K. Rich. Even all I have ; ay, and myself and all,
Will I withal endow a child of thine ;
So in the Lethe of thy angry soul
Thou drown the sad remembrance of those wrongs,
Which, thou supposest, I have done to thee.

Queen. Be brief, lest that the process of thy kindness
Last longer telling than thy kindness' date.

K. Rich. Then know, that, from my soul, I love
thy daughter.

Queen. My daughter's mother thinks it with her soul.

K. Rich. What do you think ?

* *The high imperial type*—] *Type* is exhibition, shew, display.
JOHNSON.

5 *Canst thou demise*—] The sense of the word *demise* is evident,
but I do not remember it any where so used : perhaps it should
be *devise*, which the lawyers use for to transfer, or make over.

JOHNSON.

The common meaning of the verb to *demise* is to *grant*, from
demittere, to devolve a right from one to another. STEEVENS.

Queen. That thou dost love my daughter, from thy soul :

So, from thy soul's love, didst thou love her brothers ;
And, from my heart's love, I do thank thee for it.

K. Rich. Be not so hasty to confound my meaning :
I mean, that with my soul I love thy daughter,
And do intend to make her queen of England.

Queen. Well then, who dost thou mean shall be her king ?

K. Rich. Even he, that makes her queen ; Who else should be ?

Queen. What, thou ?

K. Rich. I, even I : What think you of it, madam ?

Queen. How canst thou woo her ?

K. Rich. That I would learn of you,
As one being best acquainted with her humour.

Queen. And wilt thou learn of me ?

K. Rich. Madam, with all my heart.

Queen. Send to her, by the man that slew her brothers,

A pair of bleeding hearts ; thereon engrave,
Edward, and York ; then, haply, will she weep :
Therefore present to her,—⁶ as sometime Margaret
Did to thy father, steep'd in Rutland's blood,—
A handkerchief ; which, say to her, did drain
The purple sap from her sweet brothers' bodies,
And bid her wipe her weeping eyes withal.
If this inducement move her not to love,
Send her a letter of thy noble deeds ;
Tell her, thou mad'st away her uncle Clarence,
Her uncle Rivers ; ay, and, for her sake,
Mad'st quick conveyance with her good aunt Anne.
K. Rich. You mock me, madam ; this is not the way
To win your daughter.

Queen. There is no other way ;
Unless thou could'st put on some other shape,

⁶ — as sometime Margaret] Here is another reference to the plays of Henry VI. JOHNSON.

And not be Richard that hath done all this.

K. Rich. Say, that I did all this for love of her?

Queen. Nay, then indeed, she cannot chuse but hate thee⁷;

Having bought love with such a⁸ bloody spoil.

K. Rich. Look, what is done cannot be now amended:

Men shall deal unadvisedly sometimes,
Which after-hours give leisure to repent.
If I did take the kingdom from your sons,
To make amends, I'll give it to your daughter.
If I have kill'd the issue of your womb,
To quicken your encrease, I will beget
Mine issue of your blood upon your daughter.
A grandam's name is little less in love,
Than is the doting title of a mother;
They are as children, but one step below,
Even of your metal, of your very blood;
Of all one pain,—save for a night of groans
Endur'd of her, for whom you⁹ bid like sorrow:
Your children were vexation to your youth,
But mine shall be a comfort to your age.
The loss, you have, is but—a son being king,
And, by that loss, your daughter is made queen.
I cannot make you what amends I would,
Therefore accept such kindness as I can.
Dorset your son, that, with a fearful soul,
Leads discontented steps in foreign soil,
This fair alliance quickly shall call home
To high promotions and great dignity:
The king, that calls your beauteous daughter—wife,

⁷ *Nay then, indeed, she cannot chuse but hate thee,]* The sense seems to require that we should read:

—but love thee;

ironically. TYRWHITT.

⁸ —*bloody spoil.*] *Spoil* is waste, havock. JOHNSON.

⁹ —*bid like sorrow.*] *Bid* is in the past tense from *bide*.

JOHNSON.

Familiarly shall call thy Dorset—brother ;
 Again shall you be mother to a king,
 And all the ruins of distressful times
 Repair'd with double riches of content.
 What ! we have many goodly days to see :
 The liquid drops of tears that you have shed,
 Shall come again, transform'd to orient pearl ;
 ' Advantaging their loan, with interest
 Of ten times double gain of happiness.
 Go then, my mother, to thy daughter go ;
 Make bold her bashful years with your experience ;
 Prepare her ears to hear a wooer's tale ;
 Put in her tender heart the aspiring flame
 Of golden sov'reignty ; acquaint the princess
 With the sweet silent hours of marriage joys :
 And when this arm of mine hath chastised
 The petty rebel, dull-brain'd Buckingham,
 Bound with triumphant garlands will I come,
 And lead thy daughter to a conqueror's bed ;
 To whom I will retail my conquest won,
 And she shall be sole victress, Cæsar's Cæsar.

Queen. What were I best to say ? her father's brother
 Would be her lord ? Or shall I say, her uncle ?
 Or, he that slew her brothers, and her uncles ?
 Under what title shall I woo for thee,
 That God, the law, my honour, and her love,
 Can make seem pleasing to her tender years ?

¹ *Advantaging their love with int'rest,
 Ostentimes double gain of happiness.]*

My easy emendation will convince every reader *love* and *lone* are made out of one another only by a letter turned upside down. *Ostentimes* is a stupid concretion of three words. My emendation gives this apt and easy sense. *The tears that you have lent to your afflictions, shall be turn'd into gems ; and requite you by way of interest, with happiness twenty times as great as your sorrows have been.*

THEOBALD.

Theobald found this concretion, as he calls it, rather loosely formed in the folio, where it stands thus,—*Of ten-times.*

STEVENS.

K. Rich.

K. Rich. Infer fair England's peace by this alliance.

Queen. Which she shall purchase with still lasting war.

K. Rich. Tell her, the king, that may command, entreats.

Queen. That at her hands, which the king's King forbids².

K. Rich. Say, she shall be a high and mighty queen.

Queen. To wail the title, as her mother doth.

K. Rich. Say, I will love her everlastingly.

Queen. But how long shall that title, ever, last³?

K. Rich. Sweetly in force unto her fair life's end.

Queen. But how long fairly shall her sweet life last?

K. Rich. As long as heaven, and nature, lengthens it.

Queen. As long as hell, and Richard, likes of it.

K. Rich. Say, I, her sov'reign, am her subject low⁴.

Queen. But she, your subject, loaths such sov'reignty.

K. Rich. Be eloquent in my behalf to her.

Queen. An honest tale speeds best, being plainly told.

K. Rich. Then, in plain terms tell her my loving tale.

Queen. Plain, and not honest, is too harsh a style.

K. Rich. Your reasons are too shallow and too quick.

Queen. O, no, my reasons are too deep and dead ;—
Two deep and dead, poor infants, in their graves.

² ——— *which the king's King forbids.*] Alluding to the prohibition in the Levitical law. See Leviticus xviii. 14. GRAY.

³ *But how long shall that title, ever, last?*] Young has borrow'd this thought in his *Universal Passion* :

“ But say — my mistress and my friend,

“ Which day next week the eternity shall end ? ” STEEVENS.

⁴ ——— *am her subject low.*] Thus the folio. The quartos read :
———— *her subject love.* STEEVENS.

K. Rich. Harp not on that string, madam ; that is
past ⁵.

Q. n. Harp on it still shall I, 'till heart-strings
break.

K. Rich. Now, by my george, my garter, and my
crown,—

Queen. Profan'd, dishonour'd, and the third usurp'd.

K. Rich. I swear.

Queen. By nothing ; for this is no oath.

The george, profan'd, hath lost his holy honour ;
The garter, blemish'd, pawn'd his knightly virtue ;
The crown, usurp'd, disgrac'd his kingly glory :
If something thou wouldst swear to believ'd,
Swear then by something that thou hast not wrong'd.

K. Rich. Now by the world,—

Queen. 'Tis full of thy foul wrongs.

K. Rich. My father's death,—

Queen. Thy life hath that dishonour'd.

K. Rich. Then, by myself,—

Queen. Thyself is self-mis-us'd.

K. Rich. Why then, by heaven,—

Queen. Heaven's wrong is most of all.

If thou didst fear to break an oath with heaven ⁶,

The unity, the king my husband made,

Had not been broken, nor my brother slain.

If thou hadst fear'd to break an oath by him ⁷,

The imperial metal, circling now thy head,

Had grac'd the tender temples of my child ;

And both the princes had been breathing here,

⁵ *Harp not &c.*] In the regulation of these short speeches I have followed the first and second quartos. STEEVENS.

⁶ ———with heaven.] The quarto reads—*by him*. The folio —with *him*. STEEVENS.

⁷ ———by him,] Thus all the old copies. The modern ones read :

—————with heaven.

I have restored the old reading, because *him* (the oblique case of *he*) was anciently used for *it*, in a neutral sense. STEEVENS.

Which

* Which now, two tender bed-fellows for dust,
Thy broken faith hath made a prey for worms.
What can'st thou swear by now?

K. Rich. By time to come.

Queen. That thou hast wronged in the time o'er-
past;

For I myself have many tears to wash
Hereafter time, for time past, wrong'd by thee.
The children live, whose parents thou hast slaughter'd,
Ungovern'd youth, to wail it in their age :
The parents live, whose children thou hast butcher'd,
Old barren plants, to wail it with their age .
Swear not by time to come ; for that thou hast
Misus'd ere us'd, by times ill-us'd o'er-past.

K. Rich. As I intend to prosper, and repent !
So thrive I in my dangerous attempt
Of hostile arms ! myself myself confound !
Heaven, and fortune, bar me happy hours !
Day, yield me not thy light ; nor, night, thy rest !
Be opposite all planets of good luck
To my proceeding, if, with pure heart's love,
Immaculate devotion, holy thoughts,
I tender not thy beauteous princely daughter !
In her consists my happiness, and thine ;
Without her, follows to myself, and thee,
Herself, the land, and many a christian soul,
Death, desolation, ruin, and decay :
It cannot be avoided, but by this ;
It will not be avoided, but by this.
Therefore, dear mother, (I must call you so)
Be the attorney of my love to her ;
Plead what I will be, not what I have been ;
Not my deserts, but what I will deserve :
Urge the necessity and state of times,

* *Which now two tender, &c.*] Mr. Roderick observes, that the word *two* is without any force, and would read :

Which now too tender, &c. STEEVENS,

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And be not peevish found in great designs.

Queen. Shall I be tempted of the devil thus?

K. Rich. Ay, if the devil tempt thee to do good.

Queen. Shall I forget myself, to be myself?

K. Rich. Ay, if your self's remembrance wrong yourself.

Queen. But thou didst kill my children.

K. Rich. But in your daughter's womb I bury them; Where, in that nest of spicery², they shall breed Selves of themselves, to your recomforture.

Queen. Shall I go win my daughter to thy will?

K. Rich. And be a happy mother by the deed.

Queen. I go.—Write to me very shortly, And you shall understand from me her mind.

K. Rich. Bear her my true love's kifs, and so farewell. [*Kissing her.* Exit *Queen.*]

Relenting fool, and shallow, changing—woman!
How now? what news?

Enter Ratcliff, and Catesby.

Rat. Most mighty sovereign, on the western coast
Rideth a puissant navy; to the shore
Throng many doubtful hollow-hearted friends,
Unarm'd, and unresolv'd to beat them back:
'Tis thought, that Richmond is their admiral;
And there they hull, expecting but the aid
Of Buckingham, to welcome them ashore.

K. Rich. ¹ Some light-foot friend post to the duke
of Norfolk;—

Ratcliff, thyself,—or Catesby; where is he?

Cates. Here, my good lord.

K. Rich. Catesby, fly to the duke.

² —in that nest of spicery,] Alluding to the phoenix.

STEEVENS.

¹ Some light-foot friend post to the duke—] Richard's precipitation and confusion is in this scene very happily represented by inconsistent orders, and sudden variations of opinion. JOHNSON.

Cates.

Cates. I will, my lord, with all convenient haste.

K. Rich. Ratcliff, come hither : Post to Salisbury ;
When thou com'st thither,—Dull unmindful villain,
[*To Catesby.*

Why stay'st thou here, and go'st not to the duke ?

Cates. First, mighty liege, tell me your highness' pleasure,

What from your grace I shall deliver to him.

K. Rich. O, true, good Catesby ;—Bid him levy straight

The greatest strength and power he can make,
And meet me suddenly at Salisbury.

Cates. I go. [Exit.

Rat. What, may it please you, shall I do at Salisbury ?

K. Rich. Why, what wouldst thou do there, before I go ?

Rat. Your highness told me, I should post before.

Enter Lord Stanley.

K. Rich. My mind is chang'd.—Stanley, what news with you ?

Stanl. None good, my liege, to please you with the hearing ;

Nor none so bad, but well may be reported.

K. Rich. Heyday, a riddle ! neither good, nor bad !
What need'st thou run so many miles about,
When thou may'st tell thy tale the nearest way ?
Once more, what news ?

Stanl. Richmond is on the seas.

K. Rich. There let him sink, and be the seas on him !

White-liver'd runagate², what doth he there ?

² ——— white-liver'd runagate,] This epithet, descriptive of cowardice, is not peculiar to Shakespeare. Stephen Gosson in his *School of Abuse*, 1579, speaking of the Helots, says :

“ Leave those precepts to the white-livered Hylotes.”

STEEVENS.

Stanl. I know not, mighty sovereign, but by guess,
K. Rich. Well, as you guess ?

Stanl. Stirr'd up by Dorset, Buckingham, and
 Morton,

He makes for England, here to claim the crown.

K. Rich. Is the chair empty ? is the sword unsway'd ?
 Is the king dead ? the empire unpossess'd ?
 What heir of York is there alive, but we ?
 And who is England's king, but great York's heir ?
 Then, tell me, what makes he upon the seas ?

Stanl. Unless for that, my liege, I cannot guess.

K. Rich. Unless for that he comes to be your liege,
 You cannot guess wherefore the Welshman comes.
 Thou wilt revolt, and fly to him, I fear.

Stanl. No, mighty liege ; therefore mistrust me not.

K. Rich. Where is thy power then, to beat him
 back ?

Where be thy tenants, and thy followers ?

Are they not now upon the western shore,
 Safe-conducting the rebels from their ships ?

Stanl. No, my good lord, my friends are in the
 north.

K. Rich. Cold friends to me : What do they in the
 north,

When they should serve their sovereign in the west ?

Stanl. They have not been commanded, mighty
 king :

Pleaseth your majesty to give me leave,

I'll muster up my friends ; and meet your grace,

Where, and what time, your majesty shall please.

K. Rich. Ay, ay, thou wouldst be gone to join
 with Richmond :

But I'll not trust you, sir.

Stanl. Most mighty sovereign,

You have no cause to hold my friendship doubtful ;
 I never was, nor never will be false.

K. Rich. Well go, muster thy men. But, hear you,
 leave behind

Your

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Your son, George Stanley : look your heart be firm,
Or else his head's assurance is but frail.

Stanl. So deal with him, as I prove true to you.

[*Exit Stanley.*]

Enter a Messenger.

Mes. My gracious sovereign, now in Devonshire,
As I by friends am well advertised,
Sir Edward Courtney, and the haughty prelate,
Bishop of Exeter, his elder brother,
With many more confederates, are in arms.

Enter another Messenger.

2 Mes. In Kent, my liege, the Guilfords are in
arms ;
And every hour ³ more competitors
Flock to the rebels, and their power grows strong.

Enter another Messenger.

3 Mess. My lord, the army of great Buckingham—

K. Rich. Out on ye, owls ! nothing but songs of
death ?

[*He strikes him.*]

There, take thou that, 'till thou bring better news.

3 Mes. The news I have to tell your majesty,
Is,—that, by sudden floods and fall of waters,
Buckingham's army is dispers'd and scatter'd ;
And he himself wander'd away alone,
No man knows whither.

K. Rich. Oh, I cry you mercy :
There is my purse, to cure that blow of thine.
Hath any well-advised friend proclaim'd
Reward to him that brings the traitor in ?

3 Mes. Such proclamation hath been made, my
liege.

³ ——— *more competitors*] That is, more opponents. JOHNSON.

Enter

Enter another Messenger.

4 Mes. Sir Thomas Lovel, and lord marquis Dorset,
'Tis said, my liege, in Yorkshire are in arms.
But this good comfort bring I to your highness,—
The Bretagne navy is dispers'd by tempest :
Richmond, in Dorsetshire, sent out a boat
Unto the shore, to ask those on the banks,
If they were his assistants, yea, or no ;
Who answered him, they came from Buckingham
Upon his party : he, mistrusting them,
Hois'd sail, and made his course again for Bretagne.

K. Rich. March on, march on, since we are up in
arms ;
If not to fight with foreign enemies,
Yet to beat down these rebels here at home.

Enter Catesby.

Cates. My liege, the duke of Buckingham is taken,
That is the best news ; That the earl of Richmond
Is with a mighty power landed at Milford,
Is colder news, but yet it must be told.

K. Rich. Away towards Salisbury ; while we reason
here,
A royal battle might be won and lost :—
Some one take order, Buckingham be brought
To Salisbury ;—the rest march on with me. [*Exeunt.*]

S C E N E V.

Lord Stanley's house.

Enter Lord Stanley, and Sir Christopher Urswick.

Stanl. *4* Sir Christopher, tell Richmond this from
me :—

That

4 Sir Christopher, tell Richmond this from me :—] The person, who
is called sir Christopher here, and who has been stiled so in the
Dra.

That, in the sty of this most bloody boar,
My son George Stanley is frank'd up in hold;
If I revolt, off goes young George's head;
The fear of that witholds my present aid.
But, tell me, where is princely Richmond now?

Chri. At Pembroke, or at Ha'rford-west, in Wales.

Stanl. What men of name resort to him?

Chri. Sir Walter Herbert, a renowned soldier;
Sir Gilbert Talbot, and sir William Stanley;
Oxford, redoubted Pembroke, sir James Blunt,
And Rice ap Thomas, with a valiant crew;
And many other of great name and worth:
And towards London do they bend their course,
If by the way they be not fought withal.

Stanl. Well, hie thee to thy lord; commend me
to him;

Tell him, the queen hath heartily consented
He shall espouse Elizabeth her daughter.
These letters will resolve him of my mind.
Farewel.

[*Exeunt.*

Dramatis Personæ of all the impressions, I find by the chronicles to have been Christopher Urswick, a bachelor in divinity; and chaplain to the countess of Richmond, who had intermarried with the lord Stanley. This priest, the history tells us, frequently went backwards and forwards, unsuspected, on messages betwixt the countess of Richmond, and her husband, and the young earl of Richmond, whilst he was preparing to make his descent on England. THEOBALD.

Dr. Johnson has observed, that *Sir* was anciently a title assumed by graduates. This the late Mr. Guthrie disputes; and says, it was a title sold by the pope's legates, &c. that his holiness might be on the same footing with the king. STEEVENS.

In the *Scornfull Lady* of Fletcher, Welford says to Sir Roger, the curate, "I acknowledge you to be your *art's master*."—"I am but a *bachelor of art*, sir," replies Sir Roger. Mr. Guthrie would have done well to have informed us, how Sir Roger could possibly have *bought* his title of the pope's nuncio; when, as Abigail tells us, he had only "twenty nobles *de claro*, besides his pigges *in posse*." FARMER.

Perhaps, after all, this title was originally derived from *fire*, father. Chaucer, and all our ancient poets, bestow it on the clergy. STEEVENS.

ACT

ACT V. SCENE I.

*Salisbury.**Enter the Sheriff, with Buckingham, led to execution.**Buck.* Will not king Richard let me speak with him?^s*Sher.* No, my good lord; therefore be patient.*Buck.* Hastings, and Edward's children, Rivers, Grey,

Holy king Henry, and thy fair son Edward,
 Vaughan, and all that have miscarried
 By underhand corrupted foul injustice;
 If that your moody discontented souls
 Do through the clouds behold this present hour,
 Even for revenge mock my destruction!—
 This is All-Souls' day, fellows, is it not?

Sher. It is, my lord.*Buck.* Why, then All-Souls' day is my body's doomsday.

This is the day, which, in king Edward's time,
 I wish'd might fall on me, when I was found
 False to his children, or his wife's allies:
 This is the day, wherein I wish'd to fall
 By the false faith of him whom most I trusted;
 This, this All-Souls' day to my fearful soul,

^s *Will not king Richard let me speak with him?*] The reason why the duke of Buckingham solicited an interview with the king, is explained in *K. Henry VIII.* act I:

—*I would have play'd*

The part my father meant to act upon

The usurper Richard; who, being at Salisbury,

Made suit to come in his presence; which, if granted,

As he made semblance of his duty, would

Have put his knife into him. STEEVENS.

⁶ Is the determin'd respite of my wrongs.
 That high All-seer whom I dally'd with,
 Hath turn'd my feigned prayer on my head,
 And given in earnest what I begg'd in jest.
 Thus doth he force the swords of wicked men
 To turn their own points on their masters' bosoms :
 Thus Margaret's curse falls heavy on my neck,—
*When he, quoth she, shall split thy heart with sorrow,
 Remember Margaret was a prophetess.—*
 Come, sirs, convey me to the block of shame;
 Wrong hath but wrong, and ⁷ blame the due of blame.
[Exeunt Buckingham, &c.]

SCENE II.

Tamworth, on the borders of Leicestershire. A camp.

*Enter Henry Earl of Richmond, Earl of Oxford, Sir
 James Blunt, Sir Walter Herbert, and others, with
 drum and colours.*

Richm. Fellows in arms, and my most loving
 friends,

⁶ *Is the determin'd respite of my wrongs.*] This is nonsense, we
 should read :

—respect of my wrongs,

i. e. requital. WARBURTON.

Hanmer had rightly explained it, the time to which the punish-
 ment of his wrongs was respited.

Wrongs in this line means wrongs done, or injurious practices.

JOHNSON.

⁷ — *blame the due of blame.*] This scene should, in my opi-
 nion, be added to the foregoing act, so the fourth act will have a
 more full and striking conclusion, and the fifth act will comprise
 the business of the important day, which put an end to the com-
 petition of York and Lancaster. Some of the quarto editions are
 not divided into acts, and it is probable, that this and many other
 plays were left by the author in one unbroken continuity, and af-
 terwards distributed by chance, or what seems to have been a guide
 very little better, by the judgment or caprice of the first editors.

JOHNSON.

Bruis'd

Bruis'd underneath the yoke of tyranny,
 Thus far into the bowels of the land
 Have we march'd on without impediment;
 And here receive we from our father Stanley
 Lines of fair comfort and encouragement.
 The wretched, bloody, and usurping boar,
 That spoil'd your summer fields, and fruitful vines,
 Swills your warm blood like wash, and makes his
 trough

In your^s embowell'd bosoms,—this foul swine
 Lies now even in the centre of this isle,
 Near to the town of Leicester, as we learn:
 From Tamworth thither, is but one day's march.
 In God's name, chearly on, courageous friends,
 To reap the harvest of perpetual peace
 By this one bloody trial of sharp war.

Oxf. Every man's conscience is a thousand swords,
 To fight against that bloody homicide.

Herb. I doubt not, but his friends will turn to us.

Blunt. He hath no friends, but who are friends for
 fear;

Which, in his dearest need, will fly from him.

Richm. All for our vantage. Then, in God's name,
 march :

^s — *embowell'd bosoms*, —] Exenterated; ripped up: alluding, perhaps, to the Promethean vulture; or, more probably, to the sentence pronounced in the English courts against traitors, by which they are condemned to be hanged, *drawn*, that is, *embowelled*, and quartered. JOHNSON.

Drawn, in the sentence pronounced upon traitors only, signifies to be *drawn by the heels or on a hurdle* from the prison to the place of execution. So, Dr. Johnson has properly expounded it in *Measure for Measure*, act II. So, Holinshed in the year 1569, and Stowe's *Chronicle*, edit. 1614, p. p. 162, 171, 418, 763, 766. Sometimes our historians use a colloquial inaccuracy of expression in writing, hanged, *drawn*, and quarter'd; but they often express it—*drawn*, hanged, and quartered; and sometimes they add—*bowelled*, or his bowels taken out, which would be tautology, if the same thing was implied in the word *drawn*.

TOLLET.

True

True hope is swift, and flies with swallow's wings;
Kings it makes gods, and meaner creatures kings.
[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.

Bosworth Field.

*Enter King Richard in arms, with the Duke of Norfolk,
Earl of Surrey, and others.*

K. Rich. Here pitch our tent, even here in Bosworth field.—

My lord of Surrey, why look you so sad?

Surr. My heart is ten times lighter than my looks.

K. Rich. My lord of Norfolk,—

Nor. Here, most gracious liege.

K. Rich. Norfolk, we must have knocks; Ha! must we not?

Nor. We must both give and take, my loving lord.

K. Rich. Up with my tent: Here will I lie to-night; But where, to-morrow?—Well, all's one for that.— Who hath descry'd the number of the traitors?

Nor. Six or seven thousand is their utmost power.

K. Rich. Why, our battalia trebles that account: Besides, the king's name is a tower of strength, Which they upon the adverse faction want.— Up with the tent.—Come, noble gentlemen, Let us survey the vantage of the ground;— Call for some men of ⁹ sound direction:— Let's want no discipline, make no delay; For, lords, to-morrow is a busy day. [*Exeunt.*]

⁹ *sound direction*:—] True judgment; tried military skill.
JOHNSON.

Enter

Enter on the other side of the field, Richmond, Sir William Brandon, Oxford, Dorset, &c.

Richm. The weary sun hath made a golden set,
And, by the bright track of his fiery car,
Gives token of a goodly day to-morrow.—
Sir William Brandon, you shall bear my standard.—
' Give me some ink and paper in my tent ;—
I'll draw the form and model of our battle,
Limit each leader to his several charge,
And part in just proportion our small power.
My lord of Oxford,—you, sir William Brandon,—
And you, sir Walter Herbert, stay with me :—
The earl of Pembroke keeps his regiment ;—
Good captain Blunt, bear my good night to him,
And by the second hour in the morning
Desire the earl to see me in my tent :—
Yet one thing more, good captain, do for me ;
Where is lord Stanley quarter'd, do you know ?

Blunt. Unless I have mista'en his colours much,
(Which, well I am assur'd, I have not done)
His regiment lies half a mile at least
South from the mighty power of the king.

Richm. If without peril it be possible,
Sweet Blunt, make some good means to speak with
him,

And give him from me this most needful note.

Blunt. Upon my life, my lord, I'll undertake it ;

' Give me some ink and paper—] I have placed these lines here as they stand in the first editions : the rest place them three speeches before, after the words *Sir William Brandon, you shall bear my standard* ; interrupting what there follows ; *The earl of Pembroke, &c.* I think them more naturally introduced here, when he is retiring to his tent ; and considering what he has to do that night.

POPE.

I have followed the folio, which, of this play, is by far the most correct copy. I do not find myself much influenced by Mr. Pope's remark. STEEVENS.

And

KING RICHARD III. 145

And so, God give you quiet rest to-night !

Richm. Good night, good captain Blunt. Come,
gentlemen,

Let us consult upon to-morrow's business ;

In to my tent, the air is raw and cold.

[They withdraw into the tent.]

Enter, to his tent, King Richard, Ratcliff, Norfolk, and Catesby.

K. Rich. What is't o'clock ?

Cates. It's supper time, my lord ;
It's nine o'clock.

K. Rich. I will not sup to-night.—
Give me some ink and paper.—

What, is my beaver easier than it was ?—

And all my armour laid into my tent ?

Cates. It is, my liege ; and all things are in readiness.

K. Rich. Good Norfolk, hie thee to thy charge ;
Use careful watch, chuse trusty centinels.

Nor. I go, my lord.

K. Rich. Stir with the lark to-morrow, gentle
Norfolk.

Nor. I warrant you, my lord. *[Exit.]*

K. Rich. Ratcliff,—

Rat. My lord ?

K. Rich. Send out a pursuivant at arms
To Stanley's regiment ; bid him bring his power
Before sun-rising, lest his son George fall
Into the blind cave of eternal night.—

Fill me a bowl of wine :—² Give me a watch :—

[To Catesby.]

Saddle,

² — Give me a watch :—] A watch has many significations, but I should believe that it means in this place not a centinel, which would be regularly placed at the King's tent ; nor an instrument to measure time, which was not used in that age ; but a

Saddle white Surrey for the field to-morrow³.—

⁴ Look that my staves be found, and not too heavy.

Ratcliff,——

watch-light, a candle to burn by him; the light that afterwards burnt blue; yet a few lines after, he says:

Bid my guard watch,
which leaves it doubtful whether *watch* is not here a sentinel.

JOHNSON.

A *watch*, i. e. guard, would certainly be placed about a royal tent, without any request of the king concerning it.

I believe, therefore, that particular kind of candle is here meant, which was anciently called a *watch*, because, being marked out into sections, each of which was a certain portion of time in burning, it supplied the place of the more modern instrument by which we measure the hours. I have seen these candles represented with great nicety in some of the pictures of Albert Durer.

Barret, in his *Alvearie*, 1580, mentions *watching* lamps or candles. So, in *Love in a Maze*, 1632:

“——slept always with a *watching* candle.”

Again, in *The Noble Soldier*, 1634:

“Beauty was turn’d into a *watching-candle* that went out stinking.”

Again: in the *Return from Parnassus*, 1606:

“Sit now immur’d within their private cells,

“And drink a long lank *watching* candle’s smoke.”

Again, in *Albumazar*, 1610:

“Sit up all night like a *watching* candle.” STEEVENS.

Lord Bacon mentions a species of light called an *all-night*, which is a wick set in the middle of a large cake of wax.

JOHNSON.

³ *Saddle white Surrey for the field tomorrow.*] So, in Holinshed, p. 754:

“——he was mounted on a great *white courser*, &c.

STEEVENS.

⁴ *Look, that my staves be found,—*] *Staves* are the wood of the lances. JOHNSON.

As it was usual to carry more lances than one into the field, the lightness of them was an object of consequence. *Hall* informs us, that at the jousts in honour of the marriage of Mary, the younger sister of king Henry VIII. with the king of France, that a “a gentleman called Anthony Bownarne came into the field all armed, and on his body brought in fight x speres, that is to wyt, iii speres set in every styroppe forward, and under every thigh ii speres upward, and under his left arme was one spere backward, and the 10th in his hand, &c.” STEEVENS.

Rat. My lord?

K. Rich. Saw'st thou the melancholy lord Northumberland?

Rat. Thomas the earl of Surrey, and himself,
Much about cock-shut time^s, from troop to troop,

^s *Much about cock-shut time*,—] Ben Jonson uses the same expression in one of his entertainments:

“For you would not yesternight,

“Kiss him in the *cock-shut* light.”

Again, in the *Widow*, by B. Jonson, Fletcher, and Middleton, 1652:

“Come away then: a fine *cockshut* evening.”

Again:

“In the twilight, *cockshut* light.”

Arden of Fewersham, 1592.

In the *Treatyse of Fyshynge with the Angle*, by dame Julyana Bernes, 1496, among the directions to make a fishing rod is the following: “Take thenne and frette him faste with a *cockeshote corde*, &c.” but I cannot interpret the word. STEEVENS.

Cockshut time,] i. e. twilight. In Mr. Whalley's note upon *Ben Jonson*, Vol. V. p. 204. “*Cockshut* is said to be a net to catch woodcocks; and as the time of taking them in this manner is in the twilight, either after sun-set or before its rising, *cockshut* light may very properly express the evening or the morning twilight.” The particular form of such a net, and the manner of using it, is delineated and described in *Dictionary Rusticum*, 2 vols. 8vo. 3d edit. 1726, under the word *cock-roads*. It is the custom of the woodcock to lie close all day, and towards evening he takes wing, which act of flight might anciently be termed his *shoot* or *shot*. So, the ballast of a ship is said to *shoot*, when it runs from one side to the other. This etymology gives us, perhaps, the original signification of the word, without any recourse for it to the name of a net, which might receive its denomination from the time of the day, or from the occasion on which it was used; for I believe there was a net which was called a *cock-shot*. Holinshed's *Description of Britain*, p. 110, calls a stone which naturally has a hole in it, “an apt *cocke-shot* for the devil to run through;” which, I apprehend, alludes to the resemblance of the hole in the stone to the meshes of a net. TOLLET.

Mr. Toller's opinion may be supported by the following passage in a little metrical performance, called, *No Whippinge nor Trippinge*: but a kinde friendly Snippinge, 1601:

“A silly honest creature may do well

“To watch a *cocke shoote*, or a limed bush.” STEEVENS.

Went through the army, cheering up the soldiers.

K. Rich. I am satisfy'd. Give me a bowl of wine :
I have not that alacrity of spirit⁶,
Nor cheer of mind, that I was wont to have.—
So, set it down.—Is ink and paper ready ?

Rat. It is, my lord.

K. Rich. Bid my guard watch, and leave me.
About the mid of night, come to my tent
And help to arm me, Ratcliff.—Leave me, I say.
[*Exit Ratcliff.*]

Richmond's tent opens, and discovers him, and his officers, &c.

Enter Stanley.

Stanl. Fortune and victory sit on thy helm !

Richm. All comfort that the dark night can afford,
Be to thy person, noble father-in-law !
Tell me, how fares our loving mother ?

Stanl. I, ⁷ by attorney, blest thee from thy mother,
Who prays continually for Richmond's good :
So much for that.—The silent hours steal on,
And flaky darkness breaks within the east.
In brief, for so the season bids us be,
Prepare thy battle early in the morning ;
And put thy fortune to the arbitrement
Of bloody strokes, and mortal staring war⁸.

⁹ I, as I may, (that which I would, I cannot)
With best advantage will deceive the time,

⁶ *I have not that alacrity of spirit, &c.*] So, in Holinshed, p. 775 : “ —not using the alacritie of mirth and mind and countenance as he was accustomed to doo before he came toward the battell.” STEEVENS.

⁷ —by attorney—] By deputation. JOHNSON.

⁸ —mortal staring war.] Thus the old copies. I suppose, by *staring war* is meant—war that looks big. STEEVENS.

⁹ I, as I may, —

With best advantage will deceive the time,]
I will take the best opportunity to elude the dangers of this conjuncture. JOHNSON.

And aid thee in this doubtful shock of arms :
But on thy side I may not be too forward,
Lest, being seen, thy tender brother George
Be executed in his father's fight.
Farewell : ' The leisure, and the fearful time
Cuts off the ceremonious vows of love,
And ample interchange of sweet discourse,
Which so long hundred friends should dwell upon ;
God give us leisure for these rites of love !
Once more, adieu :—Be valiant, and speed well !

Richm. Good lords, conduct him to his regiment :
I'll strive, with troubled thoughts, to take a nap ;
Lest leaden slumber peize me down to-morrow²,
When I should mount with wings of victory :
Once more, good night, kind lords and gentlemen.

[*Exeunt Lords, &c.*

O Thou ! whose captain I account myself,
Look on my forces with a gracious eye ;
Put in their hands thy bruising irons of wrath,
That they may crush down with a heavy fall
The usurping helmets of our adversaries !
Make us thy ministers of chastisement,
That we may praise thee in thy victory !

¹ ————*The leisure, and the fearful time
Cuts off the ceremonious vows of love,]*

We have still a phrase equivalent to this, however harsh it may seem, *I would do this, if leisure would permit*, where *leisure*, as in this passage, stands for *want of leisure*. So, again :

—————*More than I have said
The leisure and enforcement of the time
Forbids to dwell upon.*——— JOHNSON.

² ————*peize me down to-morrow,]* Thus the old copies. The modern editions read—*peize*. To *peize*, i. e. to *weigh down*, from *peser*, French.

I meet with the word in the old play of *The Raigne of King Edward the third*, 1596 :

“ And *peize* their deeds with heavy weight of lead.”

Again, in *All for Money*, 1574 :

“ Then if you counter*peaze* me learning with money.”
STEEVENS.

150 KING RICHARD III.

To thee I do commend my watchful soul,
Ere I let fall the windows of mine eyes ;
Sleeping, and waking, O, defend me still ! [Sleeps.]

Enter the Ghost³ of Prince Edward, son to Henry the sixth.

Ghost. Let me fit heavy on thy soul to-morrow !
[To K. Rich.]

Think, how thou stab'dst me in the prime of youth
At Tewksbury ; Despair therefore, and die !—

Be chearful, Richmond ; for the wronged souls
[To Richm.]

Of butcher'd princes fight in thy behalf :
King Henry's issue, Richmond, comforts thee.

³ *Enter the Ghost, &c.]* This circumstance is likewise found in the old book first called the *Mirror for Magistrates*, which was afterwards published under the title of the *Falles of unfortunate Princes*.

“ As in my tent on slumbring bed I lie,

“ Horrid aspects appear'd unto mine eye :

“ I thought that all those murder'd ghosts, whom I

“ By death had sent to their untimely grave,

“ With baleful noise about my tent did crye,

“ And of the heavens, with sad complaint, did crave

“ That they on guilty wretch might vengeance have.”

His terror on waking is likewise very forcibly described.

Again, Drayton in the 22d Song of his *Polyolbion* :

“ Where to the guilty king, the black forerunning night,

“ Appear the dreadful ghosts of Henry and his son,

“ Of his own brother George, and his two nephews, done

“ Most cruelly to death ; and of his wife, and friend

“ Lord Hastings, with pale hands prepar'd as they would
rend

“ Him piece-meal ; at which oft he roareth in his sleep.”

It is not unpleasant to trace the progress of a poetical idea. Some of our oldest historians had informed us that king Richard was much disturb'd in his dreams. The author of a metrical legend, who follows next in succession, proceeds to tell us the quality of these ominous visions. A poet who takes up the story, goes further, and acquaints us with the names of those who are supposed to have appeared in them ; and last of all comes the dramatic writer, who brings the phantoms, speaking in their particular characters, on the stage. STEEVENS.

Enter

Enter the Ghost of Henry the sixth.

Ghost. When I was mortal, my anointed body
[*To K. Rich.*

By thee was punched full of deadly holes :
Think on the Tower, and me ; Despair, and die ;
Henry the sixth bids thee despair and die !—

Virtuous and holy, be thou conqueror ! [*To Richm.*
Harry, ² that prophesy'd thou shouldst be king,
Doth comfort thee in thy sleep ; Live, and flourish.

Enter the Ghost of Clarence.

Ghost. Let me sit heavy on thy soul to-morrow !
[*To K. Rich.*

I, that was wash'd to death with fulsom wine,
Poor Clarence, by thy guile betray'd to death !
To-morrow in the battle think on me,
And fall thy edgeless sword ; Despair, and die !—

Thou offspring of the house of Lancaster,
[*To Richm.*

The wronged heirs of York do pray for thee ;
Good angels guard thy battle ! Live, and flourish !

Enter the Ghosts of Rivers, Grey, and Vaughan.

Riv. Let me sit heavy on thy soul to-morrow,
[*To K. Rich.*

Rivers, that dy'd at Pomfret ! Despair, and die !

Grey. Think upon Grey, and let thy soul despair !
[*To K. Rich.*

Vaugh. Think upon Vaughan ; and, with guilty fear,
Let fall thy lance ! Despair, and die !—

[*To K. Rich.*

² *Harry, that prophesy'd thou shouldst be king,*] This prophecy, to which this allusion is made, was uttered in one of the parts of *Henry the sixth.* JOHNSON.

152 KING RICHARD III.

All. Awake! and think, our wrongs in Richard's
bosom
Will conquer him;—awake, and win the day!
[*To Richm.*

Enter the Ghost of Lord Hastings.

Ghost. Bloody and guilty, guiltily awake;
[*To K. Rich.*
And in a bloody battle end thy days!
Think on lord Hastings; and despair, and die!—
Quiet untroubled soul, awake, awake! [*To Richm.*
Arm, fight, and conquer, for fair England's sake!

Enter the Ghosts of the two young Princes.

Ghosts. Dream on thy cousins smother'd in the
Tower;
Let us be lead within thy bosom, Richard,
[*To K. Rich.*
And weigh thee down to ruin, shame, and death!
Thy nephews' souls bid thee despair and die.—
Sleep, Richmond, sleep in peace, and wake in joy;
[*To Richm.*
Good angels guard thee from the boar's annoy!
Live, and beget a happy race of kings!
Edward's unhappy sons do bid thee flourish.

Enter the Ghost of Lady Anne.

Ghost. Richard, thy wife, that wretched Anne thy
wife, [*To K. Rich.*

³ *Let us be laid within thy bosom, Richard,*] This is a poor feeble
reading. I have restored from the elder quarto, published in 1597,
which Mr. Pope does not pretend to have seen:

Let us be lead within thy bosom, Richard.

This corresponds with what is said in the line immediately fol-
lowing:

And weigh thee down to ruin, shame, and death!

THEOBALD.

That

KING RICHARD III. 153

That never slept a quiet hour with thee,
 Now fills thy sleep with perturbations :
 To-morrow in the battle think on me,
 And fall thy edgeless sword ; Despair, and die !—
 Thou, quiet soul, sleep thou a quiet sleep ;

[To Richm.]

Dream of success and happy victory ;
 Thy adversary's wife doth pray for thee.

Enter the Ghost of Buckingham.

Ghost. The first was I, that help'd thee to the crown ;
[To K. Rich.]

The last was I, that felt thy tyranny :
 O, in the battle think on Buckingham,
 And die in terror of thy guiltiness !
 Dream on, dream on, of bloody deeds and death ;
 Fainting, despair ; despairing, yield thy breath !—
 ' I dy'd for hope, ere I could lend thee aid :

[To Richm.]

But

' *I dy'd for hope,—*'] i. e. I died for wishing well to you. But Mr. Theobald, with great sagacity, conjectured *holpe* or *aid* ; which gave the line this fine sense, *I died for giving thee aid before I could give thee aid.* WARBURTON.

Hanmer reads :

I died forsook, —————

and supports his conjecture thus.

This, as appears from history, was the case of the duke of Buckingham : that being stopp'd with his army upon the banks of Severn by great deluges of rain, he was deserted by his soldiers, who, being in great distress, half famished for want of victuals, and destitute of pay, disbanded themselves and fled.

Hanmer's emendation is very plausible ; but may not the meaning of the expression be, *I died for only having hoped to give you that assistance*, which I never had it in my power to afford you in reality ?

It may, however, be observed, that *fore*, or *for*, when joined to a verb, had anciently a negative signification. So, in *Macbeth* :

“ ————— He shall live a man *forbid*.”

As to *bid* was to pray, so to *forbid* had the meaning directly opposite, i. e. to *curse*. In *Antony and Cleopatra*, to *forespeak* is to
speak

154 KING RICHARD III.

But cheer thy heart, and be thou not dismay'd :
God, and good angels, fight on Richmond's side ;
And Richard falls in height of all his pride.

[*The Ghosts vanish.*

[*K. Richard starts out of his dream.*

K. Rich. ⁷ Give me another horse,——bind up my
wounds,——

Have mercy, Jesu !—Soft ; I did but dream.—

⁸ O coward conscience, how dost thou afflict me !—
The lights burn blue⁹.—Is it not dead midnight ?

Cold

Speak against. In *Hamlet*, and the *Midsummer Night's Dream*, to *fordo* is the very reverse of to *do*. *Holpen* or *bolp* is the old participle passive of *belp*, and is used in *Macbeth* :

“ His great love, sharp as his spur, hath *bolp* him

“ To his home before us.”

Instead of *for hope*, we may therefore read, *forbolpe*, which would mean *unaided*, *abandon'd*, *deserted*, *unbelp'd*, which was the real misfortune of the duke of Buckingham. The word *bolp* has occurred likewise in this play :

“ Let him thank me that *bolp* to send him thither.”

Again, in *Coriolanus* :

“ Have *bolp* to make this rescue.” STEEVENS.

⁷ *Give me another horse*,——] There is in this, as in many of our author's speeches of passion, something very trifling, and something very striking. Richard's debate, whether he should quarrel with himself, is too long continued, but the subsequent exaggeration of his crimes is truly tragical. JOHNSON.

⁸ *O coward conscience*.—] This is extremely fine. The speaker had entirely got the better of his *conscience*, and banished it from all his *waking* thoughts. But it takes advantage of his sleep, and frights him in his dreams. With greater elegance therefore he is made to call it *coward conscience*, which dares not encounter him while he is himself awake, and his faculties entire ; but takes advantage of reason being off its guard, and the powers of the soul dissolved in sleep. But the players, amongst their other innumerable absurdities in the representation of this tragedy, make Richard say, instead of *O coward conscience*, *O tyrant conscience* ! whereby not only a great beauty is lost, but a great blunder committed. For Richard had entirely got the better of his *conscience* ; which could, on no account, therefore, be said to play the tyrant with him. WAREURTON.

⁹ *The lights burn blue*.] So, in Lyly's *Galathea*, 1592 : “ I thought there was some *spirit* in it because it burnt so *blue* ; for my

Cold fearful drops stand on my trembling flesh.
 What do I fear? myself? there's none else by:
 Richard loves Richard; that is, I am I.
 Is there a murd'rer here? No;—Yes; I am:
 Then fly,—What, from myself? Great reason: Why?
 Lest I revenge. What? Myself on myself?
 I love myself'. Wherefore? for any good,
 That I myself have done unto myself?
 O, no: alas, I rather hate myself,
 For hateful deeds committed by myself.
 I am a villain: Yet I lye, I am not.
 Fool, of thyself speak well:—Fool, do not flatter.
 My conscience hath a thousand several tongues,
 And every tongue brings in a several tale,
 And every tale condemns me for a villain.
 Perjury, perjury, in the highest degree,
 Murder, stern murder, in the dir'st degree;
 All several sins, all us'd in each degree,
 Throng to the bar, crying all,—Guilty! guilty!
 I shall despair.—There is no creature loves me;
 And, if I die, no soul shall pity me:—
 Nay, wherefore should they? since that I myself
 Find in myself no pity to myself.
 * Methought, the souls of all that I had murder'd
 Came to my tent; and every one did threat
 To-morrow's vengeance on the head of Richard.

my mother would often tell me when the *candle burnt blue*, there was some ill *spirit* in the house." It was anciently supposed that fire was a preservative against evil spirits; "because," (says Nash, in *Pierce Penniless's Supplication to the Devil*, 1595) "when any spirit appeareth, the lights by little and little goe out as it were of their own accord, and the *tapers* are by degrees extinguished." The *tapers* are the spirits who blast or *take*. So, in *K. Lear*:

"———strike her young bones,

"Ye *taking* airs, with lameness!" STEEVENS.

* *I love myself.*] The old copies read—*Alack*, I love, &c.

STEEVENS.

* *Methought, the souls &c.*] These lines stand with so little propriety at the end of this speech, that I cannot but suspect them to be misplaced. Where then shall they be inserted? Perhaps after these words:

Fool, do not flatter. JOHNSON.

Enter

Enter Ratcliff.

Rat. My lord,——

K. Rich. Who's there ?

Rat. My lord, 'tis I : The early village cock
Hath twice done salutation to the morn ;
Your friends are up, and buckle on their armour,

K. Rich. O, Ratcliff, I have dream'd a fearful
dream !—

What thinkest thou ? will our friends prove all true ?

Rat. No doubt, my lord.

K. Rich. Ratcliff, I fear, I fear,—

Rat. Nay, good my lord, be not afraid of shadows.

K. Rich. By the apostle Paul, shadows to-night
Have struck more terror to the soul of Richard,
Than can the substance of ten thousand soldiers,
Armed in proof, and led by shallow Richmond.
It is not yet near day. Come, go with me
Under our tents ; I'll play the eaves-dropper,
To hear, if any mean to shrink from me.

[*Exeunt K. Richard, and Ratcliff.*]

Richmond wakes. Enter Oxford, and others.

Lords. Good morrow, Richmond.

Richm. 'Cry mercy, lords, and watchful gentlemen,
That you have ta'en a tardy sluggard here.

Lords. How have you slept, my lord ?

Richm. The sweetest sleep, and fairest-boding
dreams,

That ever enter'd in a drowsy head,
Have I since your departure had, my lords.
Methought, their souls, whose bodies Richard murder'd,

Came to my tent, and cry'd—On ! victory !

I promise you, my heart is very jocund
In the remembrance of so fair a dream.
How far into the morning is it, lords ?

Lords. Upon the stroke of four.

Richm.

Richm. Why, then 'tis time to arm, and give direction.— [*He advances to the troops.*]

More than I have said, loving countrymen,
The leisure and enforcement of the time
Forbids to dwell upon : Yet remember this,—
God, and our good cause, fight upon our side ;
The prayers of holy saints, and wronged souls,
Like high-rear'd bulwarks, stand before our faces ;
Richard except, those, whom we fight against,
Had rather have us win, than him they follow.
For what is he they follow ? truly, gentlemen,
A bloody tyrant, and a homicide ;
One rais'd in blood, and one in blood establish'd ;
One that made means³ to come by what he hath,
And slaughter'd those that were the means to help him ;
A base foul stone, made precious⁴ by the foil
Of England's chair, where he is falsely set ;
One that hath ever been God's enemy :
Then, if you fight against God's enemy,
God will, in justice, ward you as his soldiers ;
If you do sweat to put a tyrant down,
You sleep in peace, the tyrant being slain ;
If you do fight against your country's foes,
Your country's fat shall pay your pains the hire ;
If you do fight in safeguard of your wives,

³ *One that made means*——] To *make means* was, in Shakespeare's time, always used in an unfavourable sense, and signified —to come at any thing by indirect practices. STEEVENS.

⁴ ———by the foil

Of England's chair,———]

It is plain that *foil* cannot here mean that of which the obscurity recommends the brightness of the diamond. It must mean the leaf (*feuille*) or thin plate of metal in which the stone is set.

JOHNSON.

Nothing has been, or is still more common, than to put a bright-coloured foil under a cloudy or low-prized stone. The same allusion is common to many writers. So, in a Song published in *England's Helicon*, 1614 :

“ False stones by *foiles* have many one abus'd.”

STEEVENS.

158 KING RICHARD III.

Your wives shall welcome home the conquerors ;
 If you do free your children from the sword,
 Your childrens' children quit it in your age.
 Then, in the name of God, and all these rights,
 Advance your standards, draw your willing swords :
 For me, ⁵ the ransom of my bold attempt
 Shall be this cold corps on the earth's cold face ;
 But if I thrive, the gain of my attempt
 The least of you shall share his part thereof.
 Sound, drums and trumpets, boldly and cheerfully ;
⁶ God, and saint George ! Richmond, and victory !

[*Exeunt.*

Re-enter

⁵ ——— *the ransom of my bold attempt*] The *fine* paid by me in atonement for my rashness shall be my dead corpse. JOHNSON.

⁶ *God, and saint George !—*] *Saint George* was the common cry of the English soldiers when they charged the enemy. The author of the old *Arte of Warre*, printed in the latter end of queen Elizabeth's reign, formally enjoins the use of this cry among his military laws, p. 84.

“ *Item, that all souldiers entring into battaile, assault, skirmish, or other faction of armes, shall have for their common cry and word, Saint George, forward, or upon them, saint George, where-by the souldiour is much comforted, and the enemy dismaied by calling to minde the ancient valour of England, which with that name has so often been victorious ; and therefore he, who upon any sinister zeale, shall maliciously omit so fortunate a name, shall be severely punished for his obstinate erroneous heart, and perverse mind.*”

Hence too the humour of the following lines in Marston's nervous but neglected satires, entitled the *Scourge of Villainie*, printed in 1599. 111. Lib. Sat. viii :

“ A pox upon't that *Bacchis*' name should be

“ The watch-word given to the foldierie.

“ Goe troupe to field, mount thy obscured fame,

“ Cry out *Saint George*, invoke thy mistress' name ;

“ Thy *Mistress* and *Saint George*, &c.”

In Beaumont and Fletcher's *Knight of the Burning Pestle*, that admirable and early ridicule of romance-writing, where the champion *Ralph* is going to attack the *Barber*, or the huge giant *Barbaroso*, the burlesque is heightened, when, with much solemnity, and as if a real heroic encounter had been going forward, he cries out, “ *Saint George ! set on before, march squire and page.*” Act III. sc. i. vol. vi. p. 405. And afterwards, when the engagement

Re-enter King Richard, Ratcliff, &c.

K. Rich. What said Northumberland, as touching Richmond?

Rat. That he was never trained up in arms.

K. Rich. He said the truth: And what said Surrey then?

Rat. He simil'd and said, the better for our purpose.

K. Rich. He was i'the right; and so, indeed, it is. Tell the clock there.—Give me a kalendar.—

[Clock strikes.]

Who saw the sun to day?

Rat. Not I, my lord.

K. Rich. Then he disdains to shine; for, by the book,

He should have brav'd the east an hour ago:

A black day it will be to somebody.—

Ratcliff,——

Rat. My lord?

K. Rich. The sun will not be seen to-day;

The sky doth frown and lour upon our army.

I would, these dewy tears were from the ground.

Not shine to-day! Why, what is that to me,

More than to Richmond? for the self-same heaven,

That frowns on me, looks sadly upon him.

Enter Norfolk.

Nor. Arm, arm, my lord; the foe vaunts in the field.

K. Rich. Come, bustle, bustle;—Caparison my horse;—

Call up lord Stanley, bid him bring his power:—

I will lead forth my soldiers to the plain,

And thus my battle shall be ordered.

gagement begins, *Ralph* says, “*St. George* for me:” and *Barbaroso*, “*Garagantua* for me,” WARTON.

My

My foreward shall be drawn out all in length,
Consisting equally of horse and foot ;

Our archers shall be placed in the midst :

John duke of Norfolk, Thomas earl of Surrey,
Shall have the leading of this foot and horse.

They thus directed, we will follow

In the main battle ; whose puissance on either side
Shall be well winged with our chiefeft horse.

7 This, and saint George to boot !—What think'st
thou, Norfolk ?

Nor. A good direction, warlike soveraign.—
This found I on my tent this morning.

[Giving a scrowl.

K. Rich. Jocky of Norfolk, be not too bold, [Reads.
For Dickon thy master ³ is bought and sold.

A thing devised by the enemy.—

Go, gentlemen, every man unto his charge :

Let not our babbling dreams affright our souls⁹ ;

For conscience is but a word that cowards use,

Devis'd at first to keep the strong in awe ;

Our strong arms be our conscience, swords our law.

March on, join bravely, let us to't pell-mell ;

If not to heaven, then hand in hand to hell.—

7 This, and St. George to boot !———]

That is, this is the order of our battle, which promises success ;
and over and above this, is the protection of our patron saint.

JOHNSON.

To boot is (as I conceive) to help, and not over and above.

HAWKINS.

³ Dickon thy master] Diccon is the ancient abbreviation of Richard. In Gammer Gurton's Needle, 1575, Diccon is the name of the Bedlam. In the words—bought and sold, I believe, there is somewhat proverbial. So, in the Comedy of Errors :

“ It would make a man as mad as a buck, to be so bought and sold.” STEEVENS.

⁹ Let not our babbling dreams, &c.] I suspect these six lines to be an interpolation ; but if Shakespeare was really guilty of them in his first draught, he probably intended to leave them out when he substituted the much more proper harangue that follows.

TYRWHITT.

What

What shall I say more than I have infer'd?
Remember whom you are to cope withal;—
¹ A sort of vagabonds, rascals, and run-aways,
A scum of Britains, and base lackey peasants,
Whom their o'er-cloyed country vomits forth
To desperate ventures and assur'd destruction.
You sleeping safe, they bring you to unrest;
You having lands, and blest with beauteous wives,
² They would diftrain the one, distain the other.
³ And who doth lead them, but a paltry fellow,
Long

¹ *A sort of vagabonds,——*] A sort, that is, a company, a collection. JOHNSON.

So, in the *Mirror for Magistrates*:

“ And, for his company, a sort there be

“ Of rascal French and British runawaies, &c.”

Again, in *Preston's Cambyfes*:

“ There is a sorte for feare the king doo praise.”

Again, in *Spenfer's Faery Queen*, B. V. c. iv:

“ But like a sort of sheep disperfed farre.” STEEVENS.

² *They would restrain the one, distain the other.*] *The one* means the lands; *the other*, their wives. It is plain then we should read:

They would diftrain.——

i. c. seize upon. WARBURTON.

³ *And who doth lead them but a paltry fellow,*

Long kept in Britaine at our mother's cost ?]

This is spoken by Richard, of Henry earl of Richmond: but they were far from having any common mother, but England: and the earl of Richmond was not subfisted abroad at the nation's public charge. During the greatest part of his residence abroad, he was watched and restrained almost like a captive; and subfisted by supplies conveyed from the countess of Richmond, his mother. It seems probable, therefore, that we must read:

Long kept in Bretagne at his mother's cost. THEOBALD.

Our mother's cost ?] Mr. Theobald perceives to be wrong: he reads therefore, and all the editors after him:

Long kept in Bretagne at his mother's cost.

But give me leave to transcribe a few more lines from Holinshed, and you will find at once, that Shakespeare had been there before me.

“ Ye see further, how a companie of traitors, theeves, outlaws and runnagates be aiders and partakers of his feat and enterprife.—And to begin with the erle of Richmond captaine of this

Long kept in Brittain at our brother's cost ?
 A milk-sop⁴, one that never in his life
 Felt so much cold as over shoes in snow ?
 Let's whip these stragglers o'er the seas again ;
 Lash hence these over-weening rags of France,
 These famish'd beggars, weary of their lives ;
 Who, but for dreaming on this fond exploit,
 For want of means, poor rats, had hang'd themselves :
 If we be conquer'd, let men conquer us,
 And not these bastard Brittains ; whom our fathers
 Have in their own land beaten, bobb'd, and thump'd,
 And, on record, left them the heirs of shame.
 Shall these enjoy our lands ? lie with our wives ?
 Ravish our daughters ?—Hark, I hear their drum.

[*Drum afar off.*]

Fight, gentlemen of England ! fight, bold yeomen !
 Draw, archers, draw your arrows to the head !
 Spur your proud horses hard, and ride in blood ;
⁵ Amaze the welkin with your broken staves !—

rebellion, he is a Welch milkfop—brought up by my *mooth*'s meanes and mine, like a captive in a close cage in the court of Francis duke of Britaine." p. 759.

Holinshed copies this *verbatim* from his brother chronicler Hall, edit. 1548. fol. 54. but his printer has given us by accident the word *mooth* instead of *brother* ; as it is in the original, and ought to be in Shakespeare. FARMER.

⁴ *A milkfop, &c.*] So, in the *Mirror of Magistrates* already quoted :

" First with our foe-mens captaine to begin,
 " A weake Welch *milkfop*, one that I do know
 " Was ne'er before, &c." STEEVENS.

⁵ *Amaze the welkin with your broken staves !*] That is, *fright the skies with the shivers of your lances.* JOHNSON.

So, in *Soliman and Perseda* :

" Now by the marble face of the *welkin*."

The same idea is more tamely expressed in W. Smith's *Palsgrave*, 1613 :

" Spears flew in splinters half the way to heaven."

STEEVENS.

Enter

Enter a Messenger.

What says lord Stanley? will he bring his power?

Mef. My lord, he doth deny to come.

K. Rich. Off with his son George's head.

Nor. My lord, the enemy hath past the marsh;
After the battle let George Stanley die.

K. Rich. A thousand hearts are great within my
bosom:

Advance our standards⁶, set upon our foes;
Our ancient word of courage, fair Saint George,
Inspire us with the spleen of fiery dragons!
Upon them! Victory fits on our helms. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.

Another part of the field.

Alarum. Excursions. Enter Catesby.

Cates. Rescue, my lord of Norfolk! rescue! rescue!

The king enacts more wonders than a man,
Daring an opposite to every danger⁷;

His

⁶ *Advance our standards, &c.] So again, in the Mirror for Magistrates:*

“Advance then captaines, forward to the fight,
“Draw forth your swords, each man address his sheeld;
“Hence faint conceites, die thoughts of coward flight,
“To heaven your hearts, to fight your valours yeeld:
“Behold our foes do brave us in the field.
“Upon them, friends; the cause is yours and mine;
“Saint George and conquest on our helmes doth shine.”

STEEVENS.

⁷ *Daring an opposite to every danger;] Perhaps the poet wrote:
Daring and opposite to every danger. TYRWHITT.*

Perhaps the following passage in Chapman's version of the eighth book of Homer's *Odysey* may countenance the old reading:

“——— a most dreadful fight
“Daring against him.” STEEVENS.

His horse is slain, and all on foot he fights,
 Seeking for Richmond in the throat of death :
 Rescue, fair lord, or else the day is lost !

Alarum. Enter King Richard.

K. Rich. A horse ! a horse ! my kingdom for a horse⁸ !

Cates. Withdraw, my lord, I'll help you to a horse.

K. Rich. Slave, I have set my life upon a cast,
 And I will stand the hazard of the dye :
 I think, there be six Richmonds in the field ;
 Five have I slain to-day, instead of him⁹ :—
 A horse ! a horse ! my kingdom for a horse¹ !

[*Exeunt.*
Alarums.

The old reading is probably right. *An opposite* is frequently used by Shakespeare and the contemporary writers, for an *adversary*. So, in *Twelfth Night* : “ —your *opposite* hath in him what youth, strength, skill, and wrath, can furnish man withal.” Again : “ —and his *opposite* the youth, bears in his visage no presage of cruelty.” So, in *The Fawn*, by Marston, 1605 : “ A most protested *opposite* to the match.” Again, in *Blurt, Mr. Constable*, by Middleton, 1602 : “ To strengthen us against all *opposites*.” The sense then should seem to be, that king Richard enacts wonders, *daring the adversary he meets with to every danger attending single combat.* MALONE.

⁸ In the *Battle of Alcazar*, 1598, the Moor calls out in the same manner :

“ A horse, a horse, villain a horse !

“ That I may take the river strait, and fly !

“ —Here is a horse, my lord,

“ As swiftly pac'd as Pegasus.

This passage in Shakespeare appears to have been imitated by several of the old writers, if not stolen. So, Heywood, in the Second Part of his *Iron Age*, 1632 :

“ —a horse, a horse !

“ Ten kingdoms for a horse to enter Troy !” STEEVENS.
 Marston seems to have imitated this line in his *Satires*, 1599 :

“ A man, a man, a kingdom for a man !” MALONE.

⁹ *Five have I slain to day instead of him :—*] Shakespeare had employ'd this incident with historical propriety in the first Part of *K. Henry IV.* STEEVENS.

¹ *A horse ! a horse ! &c.—*] Some inquiry hath been made for the first performers of the capital characters of Shakespeare.

We

*Alarums. Enter King Richard and Richmond ; they fight,
Richard is slain.*

*Retreat, and flourish. Enter Richmond, Stanley, bearing
the crown, with divers other Lords.*

Richm. God, and your arms, be prais'd, victorious
friends ;

The day is ours, the bloody dog is dead.

Stanl. Courageous Richmond, well hast thou ac-
quit thee !

Lo, here, these long-usurped royalties,
From the dead temples of this bloody wretch
Have I pluck'd off, to grace thy brows withal ;
Wear it, enjoy it, ² and make use of it.

Richm. Great God of heaven, say, amen, to all !—
But, tell me, is young George Stanley living ?

Stanl. He is, my lord, and safe in Leicester town ;
Whither, if it please you, we may now withdraw us.

Richm. What men of name are slain on either side ?

We learn, that Burbage, the *alter Roscius* of Camden, was the
original Richard, from a passage in the poems of bishop Corbet ;
who introduces his host at Bosworth describing the battle :

“ But when he would have said king Richard died,
“ And call'd a horse, a horse, he Burbage cried.”

FARMER.

² ———— *and make use of it.*] Some old books read :

——— *make much of it :*

and therefore Mr. Theobald reads so too : but very foolishly.
Without doubt Shakespeare himself thus corrected it to

——— *make use of it.*

Which signifies, don't *abuse* it like the tyrant you have destroyed :
whereas the other reading :

——— *make much of it,*

signifies *be fond of it* ; a very ridiculous moral for the conclusion
of the play. WARBURTON.

Dr. Warburton's reading may receive support from a passage in
K. Henry VIII. where Wolsey is giving advice to Cromwell :

“ Neglect him not ; *make use* now, and provide
“ For thine own future safety.” STEEVENS.

Stanl. John duke of Norfolk, Walter lord Ferrers,
Sir Robert Brakenbury, and sir William Brandon.

Rich. Interr their bodies as becomes their births.
Proclaim a pardon to the soldiers fled,
That in submission will return to us ;
And then, as we have ta'en the sacrament³,
We will unite the white rose and the red :—
Smile heaven upon this fair conjunction,
That long hath frown'd upon their enmity !—
What traitor hears me, and says not,—amen ?
England hath long been mad, and scarr'd herself ;
The brother blindly shed the brother's blood,
The father rashly slaughter'd his own son,
The son, compell'd, been butcher to the fire ;
† All this divided York and Lancaster,
Divided, in their dire division.—
O, now, let Richmond and Elizabeth,
The true succeeders of each royal house,
By God's fair ordinance conjoin together !
And let their heirs, (God, if thy will be so)
Enrich the time to come with smooth-fac'd peace,
With smiling plenty, and fair prosperous days !
Abate the edge of traitors, gracious Lord,
That would reduce these bloody days again,

³ ——— as we have ta'en the sacrament :] So, in Holinshed, p. 745 : “ The earle himselve first tooke a corporall oth on his honor, promising that incontinent after he shuld be possessed of the crowne and dignitie of the realme of England, he would be conjoined in matrimonie with the ladie Elizabeth daughter to king Edward the fourth.” STEEVENS.

† *All this divided York and Lancaster,
Divided, in their dire division.—*]

I think the passage will be somewhat improved by a slight alteration :

*All that divided York and Lancaster,
Divided in their dire division,
O now let Richmond and Elizabeth,
The true succeeders of each royal house,
By God's fair ordinance conjoin together.*

Let them unite all that York and Lancaster divided. JOHNSON.

And

And make poor England weep in streams of blood !
 Let them not live to taste this land's encrease,
 That would with treason wound this fair land's peace !
 Now civil wounds are stopp'd, peace lives again ;
 That she may long live here, God say—Amen !

[*Exeunt* ^s.

^s This is one of the most celebrated of our authour's performances ; yet I know not whether it has not happened to him as to others, to be praised most, when praise is not most deserved. That this play has scenes noble in themselves, and very well contrived to strike in the exhibition, cannot be denied. But some parts are trifling, others shocking, and some improbable.

JOHNSON.

P. 3. *THE Life and Death of King Richard the Third.*] The oldest known edition of this tragedy is printed for Andrew Wise, 1597 : but Harrington, in his *Apologie of Poetrie*, written 1590, and prefixed to the translation of *Ariosto*, says, that a tragedy of *Richard the Third*, had been acted at Cambridge. His words are, “ For tragedies, to omit other famous tragedies, that which was played at St. John's in Cambridge, of *Richard the Third*, would move, I think, Phalaris the tyrant, and terrifie all tyrannous minded men, &c.” He most probably means Shakespeare's ; and if so, we may argue, that there is some more antient edition of this play than what I have mentioned ; at least this shews how early Shakespeare's play appeared ; or if some other *Richard the Third* is here alluded to by Harrington, that a play on this subject preceded our author's. WARTON.

It appears from the following passage in the preface to Nashe's *Have with you to Saffron Walden, or Gabriel Harvey's Hunt is up*, 1596, that a Latin tragedy of *K. Rich. III.* had been acted at Trinity college, Cambridge : “ —or his fellow codshead, that in the Latine tragedie of *King Richard*, cried—*Ad urbs, ad urbs, ad urbs*, when his whole part was no more than—*Urbs, urbs, ad arma, ad arma.*” STEEVENS.

The play on this subject mentioned by sir John Harrington in his *Apologie for Poetrie*, 1591, and sometimes mistaken for Shakespeare's, was a Latin one, written by Dr. Legge ; and acted at St. John's in our university, some years before 1588, the date of the copy in the Museum. This appears from a better MS. in our library at Emmanuel, with the names of the original performers.

A childish imitation of Dr. Legge's play was written by one Lacy, 1583 ; which had not been worth mentioning, were they not confounded by Mr. Capell. FARMER.

Heywood, in his *Actor's Vindication*, mentions the play of *K. Rich. III.* "acted in St. John's Cambridge, so essentially, that had the tyrant *Phalaris* beheld his bloody proceedings, it had mollified his heart, and made him relent at sight of his inhuman massacres." And in the bookes of the Stationers' Company, June 19, 1594, Thomas Creede made the following entry. "An enterlude, intituled the tragedie of *Richard the Third*, wherein is shown the deathe of Edward the Fourthe, with the smotheringe of the two princes in the Tower, with the lamentable ende of Shore's wife, and the contention of the two houses of Lancaster and Yorke." This could not have been the work of Shakespeare, unless he afterwards dismissed the death of Jane Shore, as an unnecessary incident, when he revised the play. Perhaps, however, it might be some translation of Lacey's play, at the end of the first act of which is, "The showe of the proceffion. 1. Tipstaffe. 2. *Shore's wife* in her petticoate, having a taper burning in her hande. 3. The Verger. 4. Queristers. 5. Singing-men. 6. Prebendary. 7. Bishoppe of London. 8. Citizens." There is likewise a Latin song sung on this occasion in MS. Harl. 2412. STEEVENS.

The Latin play of Richard III. (MS. Harl. n. 6926.) has the author's name—Henry Lacey, and is dated—1586.

The passage, which I would mention, is upon the appearance of Richard to Buckingham and the others who came to offer him the crown :

Sed nunc duobus cinctus ecce episcopis

Apparet in summâ domo princeps pius.—

It is difficult, I think, to account for such a co-incidence, in a circumstance of mere invention, without supposing that one of the poets must have profited by the other's performance.

TYRWHITT.

This circumstance is not an invention of either poet, but taken from *Hall's Chronicle* :

"At the last he came out of his chambre, and yet not doune to them, but in a galary ouer them, with a bishop on euery hande of hym, where thei beneth might se hym and speke to hym, as thoughe he woulde not yet come nere them til he wist what they meante, &c." FARMER.

I shall here subjoin two Dissertations, one by Dr. Warburton, and one by Mr. Upton, upon the *Vice*,

ACT III. SCENE I.

THUS like the formal vice, Iniquity, &c.] As this corrupt reading in the common books hath occasioned our saying something of the barbarities of theatrical representations amongst us before the time of Shakespeare, it may not be improper, for a bet-

better apprehension of this whole matter, to give the reader some general account of the rise and progress of the modern stage.

The first form in which the drama appeared in the west of Europe, after the destruction of learned Greece and Rome, and that a calm of dulness had finished upon letters what the rage of barbarism had begun, was that of the Mysteries. These were the fashionable and favourite diversions of all ranks of people both in France, Spain, and England. In which last place, as we learn by Stow, they were in use about the time of Richard the second and Henry the fourth. As to Italy, by what I can find, the first rudiments of their stage, with regard to the *matter*, were prophane subjects, and, with regard to the *form*, a corruption of the ancient *mimes* and *attellanes*: by which means they got sooner into the right road than their neighbours; having had regular plays amongst them wrote as early as the fifteenth century.

As to these *mysteries*, they were, as their name speaks them, a representation of some scripture-story, *to the life*: as may be seen from the following passage in an old French history, intituled, *La Chronique de Metz composée par le curé de St. Euchaire*; which will give the reader no bad idea of the surprising absurdity of these strange representations: “ L’an 1437 le 3 Juillet (*says the honest Chronicler*) fut fait le Jeu de la Passion de N. S. en la plaine de Veximiel. Et fut Dieu un fire appellé Seigneur Nicolle Dom Neufchastel, lequel estoit Curé de St Victour de Metz, lequel fut presque mort en la Croix, s’il ne fût été secourus; & convient qu’un autre Prêtre fut mis en la Croix pour parfaire le Personnage du Crucifiment pour ce jour; & le lendemain le dit Curé de St. Victour parfit la Resurrection, et fit très hautement son personage; & dura le dit Jeu — Et autre Prêtre qui s’appelloit Mre. Jean de Niccy, qui estoit Chapelain de Metrange, fut Judas: lequel fut presque mort en pendant, car le cuer li faillit, et fut bien hâtivement dependu & porté en Voye. Et estoit la bouche d’Enfer tres-bien faite; car elle ouvroit & clooit, quand les Diables y vouloient entrer et isser; & avoit deux gros Culs d’Acier, &c.” Alluding to this kind of representations archbishop Harfnet, in his *Declaration of Popish Impostures*, p. 71. says, “ The little children were never so afraid of Hell-mouth in the old plays, painted with great gang teeth, staring eyes, and foul bottle nose.” Carew, in his *Survey of Cornwall*, gives a fuller description of them in these words, “ The *Guary Miracle*, in English a *Miracle Play*, is a kind of interlude compiled in Cornish out of some scripture history. For representing it, they raise an earthen amphitheatre in some open field, having the diameter of an inclosed playne, some 40 or 50 foot. The country people flock from all sides many miles off, to hear and see it. For they have therein devils and devices, to delight as well the eye as the ear. The players conne not their parts without book, but are prompted by one called the *ordinary*, who followeth at their

their back with the book in his hand, &c. &c." There was always a droll or buffoon in these *mysteries*, to make the people mirth with his sufferings or absurdities : and they could think of no better a personage to sustain this part than the *devil* himself. Even in the *mystery* of the *Passion* mentioned above, it was contrived to make him ridiculous. - Which circumstance is hinted at by Shakespeare (who has frequent allusions to these things) in the *Taming of the Shrew*, where one of the players asks for a *little vinegar* (as a *property*) *to make the devil roar*. For after the sponge with the gall and vinegar had been employed in the representation, they used to clap it to the nose of the devil ; which making him roar, as if it had been *holy-water*, afforded infinite diversion to the people. So that *vinegar* in the old farces, was always afterwards in use to torment their devil. We have divers old English proverbs, in which the devil is represented as acting or suffering ridiculously and absurdly, which all arose from the part he bore in these *mysteries*, as in that, for instance, of—*Great cry and little wool, as the devil said when he sheered his hogs*. For the sheep-shearing of Nabal being represented in the *mystery* of *David and Abigail*, and the devil always attending Nabal, was made to imitate it by *shearing a hog*. This kind of absurdity, as it is the properest to create laughter, was the subject of the *ridiculous* in the ancient *mimes*, as we learn from these words of saint Austin : *Ne faciamus ut mimi solent, et optemus à libero aquam, à lymphis vinum* †.

These *mysteries*, we see, were given in France at first, as well as in England *sub dio*, and only in the provinces. Afterwards we find them got into Paris, and a company established in the *Hôtel de Bourgogne* to represent them. But good letters and religion beginning to make their way in the latter end of the reign of Francis the first, the stupidity and prophaneness of the *mysteries* made the courtiers and clergy join their interest for their suppression. Accordingly, in the year 1541, the procureur-general, in the name of the king, presented a *request* against the company to the parliament. The three principal branches of his charge against them were, that the representation of the Old Testament stories inclined the people to Judaism ; that the New Testament stories encouraged libertinism and infidelity ; and that both of them lessened the charities to the poor : It seems that this prosecution succeeded ; for, in 1548, the parliament of Paris confirmed the company in the possession of the *Hôtel de Bourgogne*, but interdicted the representation of the *mysteries*. But in Spain, we find by Cervantes, that they continued much longer ; and held their own, even after good comedy came in amongst them : as appears from the excellent critique of the canon, in the fourth book, where he shows how the old extravagant *romances* might be made the foundation

of a regular *epic* (which, he says, *tambien puede escrivirse en prosa como en verso* †;) as the *mystery-plays* might be improved into artful comedy. His word are *Pues que si venimos à las comedias divinas, que de milagros falsos fingen en ellas, que de cosas apocrifas, y mal entendidas, atribuyendo a un santo los milagros de otro* ‡; which made them so fond of miracles that they introduced them into *las comedias humanas*, he calls them. To return :

Upon this prohibition, the French poets turned themselves from religious to moral farces. And in this we soon followed them: the public taste not suffering any greater alteration at first, though the Italians at this time afforded many just compositions for better models. These farces they called *moralities*. Pierre Gringore, one of their old poets, printed one of these *moralities*, intitled *La Moralité de l'Homme Obsiné*. The persons of the drama are *l'Homme Obsiné*—*Punition Divine*—*Simonie*—*Hypocrisie*—and *Demerites-Communes*. The *Homme Obsiné* is the atheist, and comes in blatpheming, and determined to persist in his impieties. Then *Punition Divine* appears, sitting on a throne in the air, and menacing the atheist with punishment. After this scene, *Simonie*, *Hypocrisie*, and *Demerites-Communes* appear and play their parts. In conclusion, *Punition Divine* returns, preaches to them, upbraids them with their crimes, and, in short, draws them all to repentance, all but the *Homme Obsiné*, who persists in his impiety, and is destroyed for an example. To this sad serious subject they added, though in a separate representation, a merry kind of farce called *Sottié*, in which there was *un Payfan* [the clown] under the name of *Sot-Commun* [or Fool.] But we, who borrowed all these delicacies from the French, blended the *Moralité* and *Sottié* together: So that the *Payfan* or *Sot-Commun*, the *Clown* or *Fool*, got a place in our serious *moralities*: Whose business we may understand in the frequent allusions our Shakespear makes to them: as in that fine speech in the beginning of the third act of *Measure for Measure*, where we have this obscure passage:

“ —merely thou art Death's Fool,
 “ For him thou labour'st by thy flight to shun,
 “ And yet runn'st tow'rd him still.”

For, in these *moralities*, the Fool of the piece, in order to shew the inevitable approaches of *Death*, (another of the *Dramatis Personæ*) is made to employ all his stratagems to avoid him; which, as the matter is ordered, bring the *Fool*, at every turn, into the very jaws of his enemy: So that a representation of these scenes would afford a great deal of good mirth and morals mixed together. The very same thing is again alluded to in these lines of *Love's Labour's Lost*

“ So Portent-like I would o'er-rule his fate,
 “ That he should be my Fool, and I his Fate.”

Act IV. sc. ii.

† B. iv. c. 20.

‡ Ib. 21.

But the French, as we say, keeping these two sorts of farces distinct, they became, in time, the parents of *tragedy* and *comedy*; while we, by jumbling them together, begot in an evil hour, that mungrel species, unknown to nature and antiquity, called *tragi-comedy*. WARBURTON.

TO this, when Mr. Upton's Dissertation is subjoined, there will, perhaps, be no need of any other account of the *Vice*.

LIKE the old *Vice*.] The allusion here is to the *Vice*, a droll character in our old plays, accoutred with a long coat, a cap with a pair of ass's ears, and a dagger of lath. Shakespeare alludes to his buffoon appearance in *Twelfth Night*, act IV :

" In a trice, like to the old *Vice* ;

" Who with dagger of lath, in his rage and his wrath,

" Cries, ah, ha ! to the Devil.

In the second part of *K. Henry IV.* act III. Falstaff compares Shallow to a *Vice*'s dagger of lath. In *Hamlet*, act III. Hamlet calls his uncle :

A vice of kings :

i. e. a ridiculous representation of majesty. These passages the editors have very rightly expounded. I will now mention some others, which seem to have escaped their notice, the allusions being not quite so obvious.

The *Iniquity* was often the *Vice* in our old moralities; and is introduced in B. Jonson's play called *The Devil's an Ass*: and likewise mentioned in his Epigr. cxv :

" Being no vitious person, but the *Vice*

" About the town.

" Asks old *Iniquity*, and in the fit

" Of miming, gets th' opinion of a wit."

But a passage cited from his play will make the following observations more plain. Act I. Pug asks the Devil " to lend him a *Vice* :

" Satan. What *Vice* ?

" What kind would thou have it of ?

" Pug. Why, any *Fraud*,

" Or *Covetousness*, or lady *Vanity*,

" Or old *Iniquity* : I'll call him hither.

Thus the passage should be ordered :

Pug. Why any : *Fraud*,

" Or *Covetousness*, or lady *Vanity*,

" Or old *Iniquity*."

" Satan. I'll call him hither.

" Enter *Iniquity the Vice*.

" *Ini*. What is he calls upon me, and would seem to lack

" a *Vice* ?

" Ere his words be half spoken, I am with him in a trice."

And

And in his *Staple of News*, act II:

“ *Mirth*. How like you *the Vice* i’ th’ play ?

“ *Expectation*. Which is he ?

“ *Mirth*. Three or four ; *old Covetousness*, the fordid

“ *Penny-boy*, the *Money-bawd*, who is a flesh-bawd too, they

“ say.

“ *Tattle*. But here is never a *Fiend* to carry him away.

“ Besides, he has never a wooden dagger ! I’d not give a

“ rush for a *Vice*, that has not a wooden dagger to snap at

“ every body he meets.

“ *Mirth*. That was the old way, gossip, when *Iniquity*

“ came in, like hokos pokos, in a jugler’s jerkin, &c.”

He alludes to the *Vice* in the *Alchymist*, act I. sc. 3.

“ *Sub*. And, on your stall, a puppet, with a *Vice*.”

Some places of Shakespeare will from hence appear more easy : as in the first part of *Henry IV.* act ii. where Hal. humourously characterizing Falstaff, calls him, *That reverend Vice, that grey Iniquity, that father Ruffian, that Vanity in years*, in allusion to this buffoon character. In *K. Richard III.* act iii.

Thus like the formal Vice, Iniquity,

I moralize two meanings in one word.

Iniquity is the formal *Vice*. Some correct the passage,

Thus, like formal-wise antiquity

I moralize : Two meanings in one word.

Which correction is out of all rule of criticism. In *Hamlet*, act I. there is an allusion, still more distant, to *the Vice* ; which will not be obvious at first, and therefore is to be introduced with a short explanation. This buffoon character was used to make fun with the Devil ; and he had several trite expressions, as, *I’ll be with you in a trice : Ah, ha, boy, are you there ?* &c. And this was great entertainment to the audience, to see their old enemy so belabour’d in effigy. In *K. Henry V.* act iv. a boy characterizing Pistol, says, *Bardolph and Nim had ten times more valour, than this roaring Devil i’ the old play ; every one may pare his nails with a wooden dagger*. Now Hamlet, having been instructed by his father’s ghost, is resolved to break the subject of the discourse to none but Horatio ; and to all others his intention is to appear as a sort of madman ; when therefore the oath of secrecy is given to the centinels, and the Ghost unseen calls out *swear* ; Hamlet speaks to it as *the Vice* does to the Devil. *Ah, ha, boy, sayst thou so ? Art thou there, Truepenny ?* Hamlet had a mind that the centinels should imagine this was a shape that the devil had put on ; and in act III. he is somewhat of this opinion himself,

The spirit that I have seen

My be the devil.

The manner of speech therefore to the Devil was what all the audience were well acquainted with ; and it takes off in some measure from the horror of the scene. Perhaps too the poet was willing

ing to inculcate, that good humour is the best weapon to deal with the devil. *Truepenny*, either by way of irony, or literally from the Greek, *τρέπανον*, *veterator*. Which word the Scholiast on Aristophanes' *Clouds*, ver. 447. explains, *τρέμη, ὁ περιτετριμμένος ἐν τοῖς πράγμασιν, ὃν ἡμεῖς ΤΡΥΠΑΝΟΝ καλοῦμεν*. Several have tried to find a derivation of *the Vice*: if I should not hit on the right, I should only err with others. *The Vice* is either a quality person-alized as *BIH* and *KAPTOΣ* in Hesiod and Æschylus. *Sin* and *Death* in Milton; and indeed *Vice* itself is a person, B. xi. 517:

“And took his image whom they serv’d, a brutish Vice.”

his image, i. e. a brutish *Vice*'s image: the *Vice*, Gluttony; not without some allusion to the *Vice* of the plays: but rather, I think, 'tis an abbreviation of *vice-devil*, as *vice-roy*, *vice-doges*, &c. and therefore properly called *the Vice*. He makes very free with his master, like most other *vice-roys*, or prime ministers. So that he is the Devil's *Vice*, and prime minister; and 'tis this that makes him so sawcy. UPTON.

Mr. Upton's learning only supplies him with absurdities. His derivation of *vice* is too ridiculous to be answered.

I have nothing to add to the observations of these learned critics, but that some traces of this antiquated exhibition are still retained in the rustic puppet-plays, in which I have seen the *Devil* very lustily belaboured by *Punch*, whom I hold to be the legitimate successor of the old *Vice*. JOHNSON.

H E N R Y VIII.

Persons Represented.

King Henry the Eighth.

Cardinal Wolsey. Cardinal Campeius.

Capucius, Ambassador from the Emperor, Charles V.

Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury.

Duke of Norfolk. Duke of Buckingham.

Duke of Suffolk. Earl of Surrey.

Lord Chamberlain. Sir Tho. Audley, Lord Keeper.

Gardiner, Bishop of Winchester.

Bishop of Lincoln. Lord Abergavenny. Lord Sands.

Sir Henry Guildford. Sir Thomas Lovell.

Sir Anthony Denny. Sir Nicholas Vaux.

Sir William Sands¹.

Cromwell, Servant to Wolsey.

Griffith, Gentleman-Usher to Queen Katharine.

Three other Gentlemen.

Doctor Butts, Physician to the King.

Garter, King at Arms.

Surveyor to the Duke of Buckingham.

Brandon, and a Serjeant at arms.

Door Keeper of the Council Chamber. Porter, and his Man.

Queen Katharine.

Anne Bullen.

An old Lady, Friend to Anne Bullen.

Patience, Woman to Queen Katharine.

Several Lords and Ladies in the dumb shows. Women attending upon the Queen; Spirits, which appear to her.

Scribes, Officers. Guards, and other Attendants.

The SCENE lies mostly in *London* and *Westminster*;
once, at *Kimbolton*.

¹ *Sir William Sands* was created *lord Sands* about this time, but is here introduced among the persons of the drama, as a distinct character. *Sir William* has not a single speech assigned to him; and to make the blunder the greater, is brought on after *lord Sands* has already made his appearance. STEEVENS.

There is no enumeration of the persons in the old edition.

JOHNSON.

P R O L O G U E.

*I come no more to make you laugh ; things now,
That bear a weighty and a serious brow,
Sad, high, and working, full of state and woe,
Such noble scenes as draw the eye to flow,
We now present. Those, that can pity, here
May, if they think it well, let fall a tear ;
The subject will deserve it. Such, as give
Their money out of hope they may believe,
May here find truth too. Those, that come to see
Only a show or two, and so agree,
The play may pass ; if they be still, and willing,
I'll undertake, may see away their shilling
Richly in two short hours. Only they,
That come to hear a merry, bawdy play,
A noise of targets ; ² or to see a fellow
In a long motley coat, guarded with yellow,
Will be deceiv'd : for, gentle hearers, know,
To rank our chosen truth with ³ such a show*

As

² ——— or to see a fellow

In a long motley coat, ———]

Alluding to the *fools* and *buffoons*, introduced for the generality in the plays a little before our author's time : and of whom he has left us a small taste in his own. THEOBALD.

So, Nash, in his *Epistle Dedicatory to Have with you to Saf-ron Walden, or Gabriel Harvey's Hunt is Up*, 1596 : “ —fooles ye know alwaies for the most part (especiallie if they bee naturall fooles) are futed in long coats.” STEEVENS.

³ ——— such a show

As fool and fight is, ———]

This is not the only passage in which Shakespeare has discovered his conviction of the impropriety of battles represented on the stage. He knew that five or six men with swords, gave a very unsatisfactory idea of an army, and therefore, without much care to excuse his former practice, he allows that a theatrical fight would destroy all opinion of truth, and leave him never an understanding friend. *Magnis ingeniis et multa nihilominus habituris simplex convenit erroris confessio.* Yet I know not whether the coronation

*As fool and fight is, (beside forfeiting
Our own brains, and * the opinion that we bring
To make that only true we now intend)
Will leave us never an understanding friend.
Therefore, for goodness' sake; and as you are known
The first and happiest hearers of the town,*

Be

nation shewn in this play may not be liable to all that can be objected against a battle. JOHNSON.

* ———the opinion that we bring

To make that only true we now intend,)]

These lines I do not understand, and suspect them of corruption, I believe we may better read thus:

—— *th' opinion, that we bring*

Or make; that only truth we now intend. JOHNSON.

To intend in our author, has sometimes the same meaning as to pretend. So, in the preceding play—

“ *Intend, some deep suspicion.*” STEEVENS.

If any alteration were necessary, I should be for only changing the order of the words and reading—

That only true to make we now intend:

i. e. that now we intend to exhibit only what is true.

This passage, and others of this Prologue, in which great stress is laid upon the truth of the ensuing representation, would lead one to suspect, that this play of Henry the VIIIth, is the very play mentioned by Sir H. Wotton, [in his letter of 2 July, 1613, *Reliq. Wotton*, p. 425.] under the description of a “ *a new play*, [acted by the king's players at the Bank's Side] called, *All is True*, representing, some principal pieces of the reign of Henry the VIIIth.” The extraordinary circumstances of pomp and majesty, with which, sir Henry says, that play was set forth, and the particular incident of certain cannons shot off at the king's entry to a masque at the cardinal Wolsey's house, (by which the theatre was set on fire and burnt to the ground,) are strictly applicable to the play before us. Mr. Chamberlaine, in *Winwood's Memorials*, Vol. III. p. 469, mentions, “ the burning of the Globe, or playhouse, on the Bankside, on St. Peter's-day [1613], which, (says he) fell out by a peale of chambers, that I know not on what occasion were to be used in the play.” B. Jonson, in his *Exe-cration upon Vulcan*, says, they were two poor chambers. [See the stage-direction in this play, a little before the king's entrance. *Drum and trumpet, chambers discharged.*] The continuator of Stowe's *Chronicle*, relating the same accident, p. 1003, says expressly, that it happened at the play of Henry the VIIIth.

In a MS. letter of Tho. Lorkin to sir Tho. Puckering, dated
London,

*Be sad, as we would make ye : ' Think, ye see
The very persons of our noble story,
As they were living ; think, you see them great,
And follow'd with the general throng, and sweat
Of thousand friends ; then, in a moment, see
How soon this mightiness meets misery !
And, if you can be merry then, I'll say,
A man may weep upon his wedding day.*

London, this last of June, 1613, the same fact is thus related.
“ No longer since than yesterday, while Bourbage his companie
were acting at the Globe the play of *Hen. VIII.* and there shoot-
ing of certayne chambers in way of triumph, the fire catch'd
&c.” MS. Harl. 7002. TYRWHITT.

^s ——— *Think, ye see*

The very persons of our noble story,]

Why the rhyme should have been interrupted here, when it was so
easily to be supplied, I cannot conceive. It can only be account-
ed for from the negligence of the press, or the transcribers ; and
therefore I have made no scruple to replace it thus :

——— *Think before ye.* THEOBALD.

This is specious, but the laxity of the versification in this pro-
logue, and in the following epilogue, makes it not necessary.

JOHNSON.

The author of the *Revisal* would read :

——— *of our history.* STEEVENS.



KING HENRY VIII.

A C T I. S C E N E I.

London.

An Antichamber in the Palace.

Enter the Duke of Norfolk, at one door; at the other, the Duke of Buckingham, and the Lord Abergavenny.

Buck. Good morrow, and well met. How have you done,
Since last we saw in France?

Nor. I thank your grace :
Healthful ; and ever since a ⁶ fresh admirer
Of what I saw there.

Buck. An untimely ague
Stay'd me a prisoner in my chamber, when
Those sons of glory, those two lights of men,
Met in the vale of Arde.

Nor. 'Twixt Guines and Arde :
I was then present, saw them salute on horse-back ;

⁵ We are unacquainted with any dramatic piece on the subject of Henry VIII. that preceded this of Shakespeare ; and yet on the books of the Stationers' Company appears the following entry. " Nathaniel Butter] (who was one of our author's printers) Feb. 12, 1604. That he get good allowance for the enterlude of *K. Henry VIII.* before he begin to print it ; and with the wardens hand to yt, he is to have the same for his copy." Dr. Farmer in a note on the epilogue to this play, observes from Stow, that *Robert Greene* had written somewhat on the same story.

STEEVENS.

⁶ — *a fresh admirer*] An admirer untired ; an admirer still feeling the impression as if it were hourly renewed. JOHNSON.

Beheld them, when they lighted, how they clung
In their embracement, as they grew together ;
Which had they, what four thron'd ones could have
weigh'd

Such a compounded one ?

Buck. All the whole time

I was my chamber's prisoner.

Nor. Then you lost

The view of earthly glory : Men might say,
'Till this time, pomp was single ; but now marry'd
To one above itself. ⁸ Each following day
Became the next day's master, 'till the last
Made former wonders it's : To-day, the French,
⁹ All clinquant, all in gold, like heathen gods,
Shone down the English ; and, to-morrow, they

⁷ *Till this time pomp was single ; but now marry'd*

To one above itself.———]

The thought is odd and whimsical ; and obscure enough to need an explanation—Till this time (says the speaker) Pomp led a single life, as not finding a husband able to support her according to her dignity ; but she has now got one in Henry VIII. who could support her even above her condition of finery. WARBURTON.

Dr. Warburton has here discovered more beauty than the author intended, who only meant to say in a noisy periphrase, that *pomp was increased on this occasion to more than twice as much as it had ever been before.* Pomp is no more married to the English than to the French king, for to neither is any preference given by the speaker. Pomp is only married to pomp, but the new pomp is greater than the old. JOHNSON.

———*Each following day*

Became the next day's master, &c.]

Dies diem docet. Every day learned something from the preceding, till the concluding day collected all the splendor of all the former shews. JOHNSON.

⁹ *All clinquant,*——] *All glittering, all shining.* Clarendon uses this word in his description of the Spanish *Juego de Toros.*

JOHNSON.

It is likewise used in a *Memorable Masque*, &c. performed before king James at Whitehall in 1613, at the marriage of the Palgrave and princess Elizabeth :

“ ——his buskins *clinquant* as his other attire.”

STEEVENS.

Made

Made Britain, India : every man, that stood,
 Shew'd like a mine. Their dwarfish pages were
 As cherubims, all gilt : the madams too,
 Not us'd to toil, did almost sweat to bear
 The pride upon them, that their very labour
 Was to them as a painting : now this mask
 Was cry'd incomparable ; and the ensuing night
 Made it a fool, and beggar. The two kings,
 Equal in lustre, were now best, now worst,
 As presence did present them ; ¹ him in eye,
 Still him in praise : and, being present both,
² 'Twas said, they saw but one ; and no discerners
³ Durst wag his tongue in censure. When these funs,
 (For so they phrase 'em) by their heralds challeng'd
 The noble spirits to arms, they did perform
 Beyond thought's compass ; that former fabulous story,
 Being now seen possible enough, got credit,
 That ⁴ Bevis was believ'd.

Buck. Oh, you go far.

Nor. As I belong to worship, and affect
 In honour honesty, ⁵ the tract of every thing
 Would by a good discourser lose some life,
 Which action's self was tongue to. ⁶ All was royal ;
 To

¹ ——— him in eye,
 Still him in praise ; ———]

So, Dryden :

“ ——— Two chiefs

“ So match'd as each seem'd worthiest when alone.” JOHNSON.

² *Durst wag his tongue in censure.*] Censure for determination,
 of which had the noblest appearance. WARBURTON.

³ *That Bevis was believ'd.*] The old romantic legend of Bevis
 of Southampton. This Bevis (or Beavois) a Saxon, was for his
 prowess created by William the Conqueror earl of Southampton :
 of whom Camden in his *Britannia*. THEOBALD.

⁴ ——— the tract of every thing &c.] The course of these
 triumphs and pleasures, however well related, must lose in the
 description part of that spirit and energy which were expressed in
 the real action. JOHNSON.

⁵ ——— All was royal ; &c.] This speech was given in all the
 editions to Buckingham ; but improperly. For he wanted infor-

mation

To the disposing of it nought rebell'd,
Order gave each thing view ; ⁶ the office did
Distinctly his full function.

Buck. Who did guide,
I mean, who set the body and the limbs
Of this great sport together, as you gueſs?

Nor. One, certes, that promiſes no ⁷ element
In ſuch a buſineſs.

Buck. I pray you, who, my lord?

Nor. All this was order'd by the good diſcretion
Of the right reverend cardinal of York.

Buck. The devil ſpeed him ! no man's pye is free'd
From his ambitious finger. What had he
To do in theſe ⁸ fierce vanities ? I wonder,
⁹ That ſuch a keech can with his very bulk

Take

mation, having kept his chamber during the ſolemnity. I have
therefore given it to Norfolk. *WARBURTON.*

I would point thus :

——all was royal

To the diſpoſing of it ;

i. e. even to the diſpoſing of it. *MUSGRAVE.*

⁶ ——the office did

Diſtinctly his full function.]

The commiſſion for regulating this feſtivity was well executed,
and gave exactly to every particular perſon and action the proper
place. *JOHNSON.*

⁷ ——element] No initiation, no previous practices. *Elements*
are the firſt principles of things, or rudiments of knowledge. The
word is here applied, not without a *catachreſis*, to a perſon.

JOHNSON.

⁸ ——fierce vanities? ——] *Fierce* is here, I think, uſed like
the French *fier* for *proud*, unleſs we ſuppoſe an alluſion to the mi-
nical ferocity of the combatants in the tilt. *JOHNSON.*

It is certainly uſed as the French word *fier*. So, in Ben Jon-
ſon's *Bartholomew Fair*, the puritan ſays, the hobby horſe “is
a *fierce* and rank idol.” *STEEVENS.*

⁹ That ſuch a keech ——] *Ketch*, from the Italian *caicchio*,
ſignifying a tub, barrel, or hogſhead, *Skinner.* *POPE.*

The word in the folio is *keech*, which, not being underſtood, is
changed into *ketch*.

A *keech* is a ſolid lump or maſs. A cake of wax or tallow form-
ed in a mould is called yet in ſome places a *keech*. *JOHNSON.*

There

Take up the rays o' the beneficial sun,
And keep it from the earth.

Nor. Surely, fir,

There's in him stuff that puts him to these ends :
For, being not propt by ancestry, (whose grace
Chalks successors their way) nor call'd upon
For high feats done to the crown ; neither ally'd
To eminent assistants, but, spider-like,
1 Out of his self-drawing web, he gives us note,
The force of his own merit makes his way ;
2 A gift that heaven gives for him, which buys
A place next to the king.

Aber. I cannot tell

What heaven hath given him, let some graver eye
Pierce into that ; but I can see his pride
Peep through each part of him : Whence has he
that ?

If not from hell, the devil is a niggard ;
Or has given all before, and he begins
A new hell in himself.

Buck. Why the devil,

Upon this French going-out, took he upon him,

There may, perhaps, be a singular propriety in this term of contempt. *Wolfey* was the son of a *butcher*, and in the second part of *King Henry IV.* a butcher's wife is called—Goody *Keech*.

STEEVENS.

1 *Out of his self-drawing web ; —*] Thus it stands in the first edition. The later editors, by injudicious correction, have printed :

Out of his self-drawn web. JOHNSON.

2 *A gift that heaven gives for him, which buys
A place next to the king.]*

It is evident a word or two in the sentence is misplaced, and that we should read :

A gift that heaven gives ; which buys for him

A place next to the king. WARBURTON.

It is full as likely that Shakespeare wrote :

—gives to him,—

which will save any greater alteration. JOHNSON.

I am too dull to perceive the necessity of any change. What he is unable to give himself, heaven gives or deposits for him, and that gift, or deposit, buys a place, &c. STEEVENS.

With-

Without the privity o' the king, to appoint
 Who should attend on him? He makes up³ the file
 Of all the gentry; for the most part such
 Too, whom as great a charge as little honour
 He meant to lay upon: and his own letter,
 The honourable board of⁴ council out,
⁵ Must fetch in him he papers.

Aber. I do know
 Kinsmen of mine, three at the least, that have
 By this so sicken'd their estates, that never
 They shall abound as formerly.

Buck. O, many
 Have broke their backs with laying manors on them
 For this great journey⁶.⁷ What did this vanity,
 But minister communication of
 A most poor issue?

³ — *the file*] That is, *the list*. JOHNSON.

⁴ — *council out*,] Council not then sitting. JOHNSON.

The expression rather means, "all mention of the board of council being left out of his letter." STEEVENS.

⁵ *Must fetch in him he papers.*] He *papers*, a verb.; his own letter, by his own single authority, and without the concurrence of the council, must fetch in him whom he papers down. — I don't understand it, unless this be the meaning. POPE.

Wolsey published a list of the several persons whom he had appointed to attend on the king at this interview. See Hall's *Chronicle*, Rymer's *Fœdera*, tom. 13, &c. STEEVENS.

⁶ *Have broke their backs with laying manors on them
 For this great journey.*]

In the ancient *Interlude of Nature*, bl. l. no date, but apparently printed in the reign of king Henry VIII. there seems to have been a similar stroke aimed at this expensive expedition:

"*Pryde.* I am unhappy, I se it well,

" For the expence of myne apparell

" Towardys this wyage—

" What in horses and other aray

" Hath compelled me for to lay

" All my land to mortgage." STEEVENS.

⁷ — *What did this vanity*

But — — —]

What effect had this pompous shew but the production of a wretched conclusion. JOHNSON.

Nor. Grievingly I think,
The peace between the French and us not values
The cost that did conclude it.

Buck. ⁸ Every man,
After the hideous storm that follow'd, was
A thing inspir'd; and, not consulting, broke
Into a general prophecy,—That this tempest,
Dashing the garment of this peace, aboated
The sudden breach on't.

Nor. Which is budded out;
For France hath flaw'd the league, and hath attach'd
Our merchants' goods at Bourdeaux.

Aber. Is it therefore
⁹ The ambassador is silenc'd?

Nor. Marry, is't.

Aber. ¹ A proper title of a peace; and purchas'd
At a superfluous rate!

Buck. Why, all this business
Our reverend cardinal carry'd.

Nor. Like it your grace,
The state takes notice of the private difference
Betwixt you and the cardinal. I advise you,
(And take it from a heart that wishes towards you
Honour and plenteous safety) that you read

² Every man,

After the hideous storm that follow'd, &c.]

His author, Hall, says, "Monday, 18th day of June, there blew
such storms of wind and weather, that marvel was to hear; for
which hideous tempest some said it was a very prognostication of trou-
ble and hatred to come between princes." In Henry VIII. p. 80.

WARBURTON.

⁹ The ambassador is silenc'd?] *Silenc'd* for recall'd. This be-
ing proper to be said of an orator; and an ambassador or public
minister being called an orator, he applies *silenc'd* to ambassador.

WARBURTON.

I understand it rather of the French ambassador residing in
England, who, by being refused an audience, may be said to be
silenc'd. JOHNSON.

¹ A proper title of a peace;—] A fine name of a peace. Iro-
nically. JOHNSON.

The

Have not the power to muzzle him ; therefore, best
Not wake him in his slumber. ⁴ A beggar's book
Out-worths a noble's blood,

Nor. What, are you chaf'd ?

Ask God for temperance ; that's the appliance only,
Which your disease requires.

Buck. I read in his looks

Matter against me ; and his eye revil'd
Me, as his abject object : at this instant

⁵ He bores me with some trick : He's gone to the
king ;

I'll follow, and out-stare him.

Nor. Stay, my lord,

And let your reason with your choler question
What 'tis you go about : To climb steep hills,
Requires slow pace at first : Anger is like ⁶

A full-hot horse ; who being allow'd his way,
Self-mettle tires him. Not a man in England
Can advise me like you : be to yourself,
As you would to your friend.

Buck. I'll to the king ;

And ⁷ from a mouth of honour quite cry down

⁴ ——— *A beggar's book*

Out-worth's a noble's blood.]

That is, the literary qualifications of a bookish beggar are more
prized than the high descent of hereditary greatness. This is a
contemptuous exclamation very naturally put into the mouth of
one of the antient, unletter'd, martial nobility. JOHNSON.

⁵ *He bores me with some trick : ———]* He stabs or wounds me
by some artifice or fiction. JOHNSON.

So, in the *Life and Death of the Lord Cromwell*, 1613 :

“ One that hath gull'd you, that hath bor'd you, sir.”

STEEVENS.

⁶ ——— *Anger is like*

A full hot horse ; ———]

So, Massinger, in the *Unnatural Combat* :

Let passion work, and, like a hot-rein'd horse,

'Twill quickly tire itself. STEEVENS.

⁷ ——— *from a mouth of honour ———]* I will crush this baseborn
fellow, by the due influence of my rank, or say that all distinc-
tion of persons is at an end. JOHNSON.

This

This Ipswich fellow's insolence ; or proclaim,
There's difference in no persons.

Nor. Be advis'd ;

Heat not a furnace ^s for your foe so hot
That it do singe yourself : We may out-run,
By violent swiftness, that which we run at,
And lose by over-running. Know you not,
The fire, that mounts the liquor 'till it run o'er,
In seeming to augment it, wastes it ? Be advis'd ;
I say again, there is no English soul
More stronger to direct you than yourself ;
If with the sap of reason you would quench,
Or but allay, the fire of passion.

Buck. Sir,

I am thankful to you ; and I'll go along
By your prescription :—but this top-proud fellow,
(Whom from the flow of gall I name not, but
From ² sincere motions) by intelligence,
And proofs as clear as founts in July, when
We see each grain of gravel, I do know
To be corrupt and treasonous.

Nor. Say not, treasonous.

Buck. To the king I'll say't ; and make my vouch
as strong

As shore of rock. Attend. This holy fox,
Or wolf, or both, (for he is equal ravenous,
As he is subtle ; and as prone to mischief,
As able to perform't : ' his mind and place

Infect-

^s *Heat not a furnace &c.*] Might not Shakespeare allude to Dan. iii. 22 ? " Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of fire slew those men that took up *Shadrach, Meshac, and Abednego.*"

STEEVENS.

² — *sincere motions,*)—] Honest indignation ; warmth of integrity. Perhaps name not, should be blame not.

Whom from the flow of gall I blame not. JOHNSON.

¹ — *his mind and place*

Infecting one another, ———]

Infecting one another, yea, reciprocally)
 Only to shew his pomp as well in France
 As here at home, ² suggests the king our master
 To this last costly treaty, the interview,
 That swallow'd so much treasure, and like a glass
 Did break i' the rinsing.

Nor. 'Faith, and so it did.

Buck. Pray, give me favour, sir. This cunning
 cardinal

The articles o' the combination drew,
 As himself pleas'd; and they were ratify'd,
 As he cry'd, Thus let be: to as much end,
 As give a crutch to the dead: But our court cardinal ³
 Has done this, and 'tis well; for worthy Wolsey,
 Who cannot err, he did it. Now this follows,
 (Which, as I take it, is a kind of puppy
 To the old dam, treason)—Charles the emperor,
 Under pretence to see the queen his aunt,
 (For 'twas, indeed, his colour; but he came
 To whisper Wolsey) here makes visitation:
 His fears were, that the interview, betwixt
 England and France, might, through their amity,
 Breed him some prejudice; for from this league
 Peep'd harms that menac'd him: He privily
 Deals with our cardinal; and, as I trow,—
 Which I do well; for, I am sure, the emperor
 Pay'd ere he promis'd; whereby his suit was granted,
 Ere it was ask'd—but when the way was made,
 And pay'd with gold, the emperor thus desir'd;—
 That he would please to alter the king's course,
 And break the foresaid peace. Let the king know,

This is very satirical. His mind he represents as highly corrupt; and yet he supposes the contagion of the *place* of first minister as adding an infection to it. WARBURTON.

² ——— suggests [the king our master] suggests, for excites.

WARBURTON.

³ ——— our court cardinal.] The old copy reads:

—— count cardinal, which may be right. STEEVENS.

(As soon he shall by me) that thus the cardinal
Does buy and sell his honour as he pleases,
And for his own advantage.

Nor. I am sorry
To hear this of him ; and could wish, he were
Something mistaken in't.

Buck. No, not a syllable ;
I do pronounce him in that very shape,
He shall appear in proof.

*Enter Brandon ; a Serjeant at arms before him, and two
or three of the guard.*

Bran. Your office, serjeant ; execute it.

Serj. Sir,

My lord the duke of Buckingham, and earl
Of Hereford, Stafford, and Northampton, I
Arrest thee of high treason, in the name
Of our most sovereign king.

Buck. Lo you, my lord,
The net has fallen upon me ; I shall perish
Under device and practice.

Bran. * I am sorry
To see you ta'en from liberty, to look on
The business present : 'Tis his highness' pleasure,
You shall to the Tower.

Buck. It will help me nothing,
To plead mine innocence ; for that dye is on me,
Which makes my whitest part black. The will of
heaven

Be done in this and all things !—I obey—,
O my lord Aberga'ny, fare you well.

* I am sorry

To see you ta'en from liberty, to look on

The business present : —]

I am sorry that I am obliged to be present and an eye-witness of
your loss of liberty. JOHNSON.

Bran.

Bran. Nay, he must bear you company :—The
king [To *Aberg.*
Is pleas'd, you shall to the Tower, 'till you know
How he determines further.

Aber. As the duke said,
The will of heaven be done, and the king's pleasure
By me obey'd.

Bran. Here is a warrant from
The king, to attach lord Montacute ; and the bodies
Of the duke's confessor, John de la Court⁵,
⁶ One Gilbert Peck, his chancellor,—

Buck. So, so ;
These are the limbs of the plot : No more, I hope.

Bran. A monk o' the Chartreux.

Buck. O, ⁷ Nicholas Hopkins ?

Bran. He.

Buck. My surveyor is false ; the o'er-great cardinal
Hath shew'd him gold : ⁸ my life is spann'd already :
I am the shadow of poor Buckingham⁹ ;

Whose

⁵ *John de la Court,*] The name of this monk of the Chartreux
was *John de la Car*, alias *de la Court*. See Holinshed, p. 863.

STEEVENS.

⁶ *One Gilbert Peck, his counsellor.*] So, the old copies have it,
but I, from the authorities of Hall and Holinshed, chang'd it
to *chancellor*. And our poet himself, in the beginning of the se-
cond act, vouches for this correction :

At which ; appear'd against him his surveyor,

Sir Gilbert Peck his chancellor. THEOBALD.

Holinshed calls this person, " Gilbert Perke priest, the duke's
chancellor." STEEVENS.

⁷ *Michael Hopkins.*] So all the old copies had it ; and so Mr.
Rowe and Mr. Pope from them. But here again, by the help of
the chronicles, I have given the true reading. THEOBALD.

⁸ — *my life is spann'd already :*] To *span* is to gripe, or inclose
in the hand ; to *span* is also to measure by the palm and fingers.
The meaning, therefore, may either be, that *hold is taken of my*
life, my life is in the gripe of my enemies ; or, that *my time is mea-*
sured, the length of my life is now determined. JOHNSON.

⁹ *I am the shadow of poor Buckingham ;*
Whose figure even this instant cloud puts on,
By dark'ning my clear sun. —]

Whose figure even this instant cloud puts on,
By dark'ning my clear sun.—My lord, farewell.

[*Exeunt.*]

These lines have passed all the editors. Does the reader understand them? By me they are inexplicable, and must be left, I fear, to some happier sagacity. If the usage of our author's time could allow *figure* to be taken, as now, for *dignity* or *importance*, we might read:

Whose figure even this instant cloud puts out.

But I cannot please myself with any conjecture.

Another explanation may be given, somewhat harsh, but the best that occurs to me:

I am the shadow of poor Buckingham,

Whose figure even this instant cloud puts on,

whose port and dignity is assumed by this cardinal, that overclouds and oppresses me, and who gains my place

By dark'ning my clear sun. JOHNSON.

Perhaps Shakespeare has expressed the same idea more clearly in the *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, *Antony and Cleopatra*, and *King John*:

“ Oh, how this spring of love resembleth

“ Th' uncertain glory of an *April* day,

“ Which now shews all the beauty of the sun,

“ And, by and by, a cloud takes all away.”

Antony remarking on the various appearances assumed by the flying vapours, adds:

“ ——— now thy captain is

“ Even such a body: here I am Antony,

“ But cannot hold this visible shape, my knave.”

Or yet more appositely in *King John*:

“ ——— being but the shadow of your son

“ Becomes a sun, and makes your son a shadow.”

Such another thought appears in the famous Hist. of *Tho. Stukely*, 1605:

“ He is the *substance* of my shadowed love.”

There is likewise a passage similar to the conclusion of this, in the *Bloody Brother* of Beaumont and Fletcher:

“ — is drawn so high, that, like an ominous comet,

“ He darkens all your light.” STEEVENS.

SCENE

S C E N E II.

The Council-Chamber.

Cornet. Enter King Henry, leaning on the Cardinal's shoulder; the Nobles, and Sir Thomas Lovel. The Cardinal places himself under the King's feet, on his right side.

King. My life itself, ¹ and the best heart of it,
Thanks you for this great care: ² I stood i' the level
Of a full-charg'd confederacy; and give thanks
To you that choak'd it.—Let be call'd before us
That gentleman of Buckingham's: in person
I'll hear him his confessions justify;
And point by point the treasons of his master
He shall again relate.

A noise within, crying, Room for the Queen. Enter the Queen, ushered by the Dukes of Norfolk and Suffolk: she kneels. The King riseth from his state, takes her up, kisses, and placeth her by him.

Queen. Nay, we must longer kneel; I am a suitor.

¹ ——— *and the best heart of it,*] The expression is monstrous. The heart is supposed the seat of life: but, as if he had many lives, and to each of them a heart, he says, *his best heart.* A way of speaking that would have become a cat rather than a king.

WARBURTON.

This expression is not more monstrous than many others. Heart is not here taken for the great organ of circulation and life, but, in a common and popular sense, for the most valuable or precious part. Our author, in *Hamlet*, mentions the *heart of heart.* Exhausted and effete ground is said by the farmer to be *out of heart.* The hard and inner part of the oak is called *heart of oak.*

JOHNSON.

² ——— *stood i' the level*

Of a full-charg'd confederacy; ———]

To stand in the *level* of a gun is to stand in a *line with its mouth*, so as to be hit by the shot. JOHNSON.

O 2

King.

King. Arise, and take your place by us :—Half
your suit

Never name to us ; you have half our power :
The other moiety, ere you ask, is given ;
Repeat your will, and take it.

Queen. Thank your majesty.

That you would love yourself ; and, in that love,
Not unconfider'd leave your honour, nor
The dignity of your office, is the point
Of my petition.

King. Lady mine, proceed.

Queen. I am solicited, not by a few,
And those of true condition, that your subjects
Are in great grievance : There have been commif-
sions

Sent down among them, which have flaw'd the heart
Of all their loyalties :—wherein, although, [*To Wolsey.*
My good lord cardinal, they vent reproaches
Most bitterly on you, as putter-on
Of these exactions, yet the king our master,
(Whose honour heaven shield from foil !) even he
escapes not

Language unmannerly, yea, such which breaks
The sides of loyalty, and almost appears
In loud rebellion.

Nor. Not almost appears,
It doth appear : for, upon these taxations,
The clothiers all, not able to maintain
The many to them 'longing, have put off
The spinsters, carders, fullers, weavers, who,
Unfit for other life, compell'd by hunger

³ *The many to them 'longing, —*] The *many* is the *meiny*, the train,
the people. Dryden is, perhaps, the last that used this word :

“ *The kings before their many rode.*” JOHNSON.

I believe the *many* is only the *multitude*. Thus, *Coriolanus*, speak-
ing of the rabble, calls them :

“ —the mutable rank-scented *many*.” STEEVENS.

And

⁴ And lack of other means, in desperate manner
Daring the event to the teeth, are all in uproar,
⁵ And Danger serves among them.

King. Taxation!

Wherein? and what taxation?—My lord cardinal,
You that are blam'd for it alike with us,
Know you of this taxation?

Wol. Please you, sir,

I know but of a single part, in aught
Pertains to the state; ⁶ and front but in that file
Where others tell steps with me.

Queen. No, my lord,

⁴ *And lack of other means,—*] *Means* does not signify methods of livelihood, for that was said immediately before:

Unfit for other life,——

but it signifies, *necessaries—compelled*, says the speaker, *for want of bread and other necessaries*. But the poet using for the thing [*want of bread*] the effect of it, [*hunger*] the passage is become doubly obscure; first, by using a term in a licentious sense, and then by putting it to a vicious construction. The not apprehending that this is one of the distinguishing peculiarities in Shakespeare's style, has been the occasion of so much ridiculous correction of him. WARBURTON.

I have inserted this note rather because it seems to have been the writer's favourite, than because it is of much value. It explains what no reader has found difficult, and, I think, explains it wrong.

JOHNSON.

⁵ *And Danger serves among them.*] Could one easily believe, that a writer, who had, but immediately before, sunk so low in his expression, should here rise again to a height so truly sublime? where, by the noblest stretch of fancy, *Danger* is personalized as serving in the rebel army, and shaking the established government. WARBURTON.

Chaucer, Gower, Skelton, and Spenser, have personified *Danger*. The first, in his *Romaunt of the Rose*; the second, in his fifth book *De Confessione Amantis*; the third in his *Bouge of Court*:

“With that, anone out start *danger*.”

and the fourth, in the 10th Canto of the fourth book of his *Faery Queen*, and again in the fifth book and the ninth Canto.

STEEVENS.

⁶ — *front but in that file*] I am but *primus inter pares*. I am but first in the row of counsellors. JOHNSON.

You know no more than others : but you frame
Things, that are known alike ; which are not whole-
some

To those which would not know them, and yet must
Perforce be their acquaintance. These exactions,
Whereof my sovereign would have note, they are
Most pestilent to the hearing ; and, to bear them,
The back is sacrifice to the load. They say,
They are devis'd by you ; or else you suffer
Too hard an exclamation.

King. Still exaction !

The nature of it ? In what kind, let's know,
Is this exaction ?

Queen. I am much too venturous
In tempting of your patience ; but am bolden'd
Under your promis'd pardon. The subject's grief
Comes through commissions, which compel from
each

The sixth part of his substance, to be levy'd
Without delay ; and the pretence for this
Is nam'd, your wars in France : This makes bold
mouths :

Tongues spit their duties out, and cold hearts freeze
Allegiance in them ; their curses now,
Live where their prayers did ; and it's come to pass,
That tractable obedience⁷ is a slave
To each incens'd will. I would, your highness
Would give it quick consideration, for
There is no primer business.

King.

⁷ — *tractable obedience* &c.] i. e. those who are tractable and obedient must give way to others who are angry. MUSGRAVE.

⁸ *There is no primer business.*] In the old edition :

There is no primer baseness.

The queen is here complaining of the suffering of the commons ; which, she suspects, arose from the abuse of power in some great men. But she is very reserved in speaking her thoughts concerning the quality of it. We may be assured then, that she did not, in conclusion, call it the highest *baseness* ; but rather made use of
a word

King. By my my life,
This is against our pleasure.

Wol. And for me,
I have no further gone in this, than by
A single voice ; and that not past me, but
By learned approbation of the judges. If I am
Traduc'd by ignorant tongues,—which neither know
My faculties, nor person, yet will be
The chronicles of my doing,—let me say,
'Tis but the fate of place, and the rough brake
That virtue must go through. We must not stint⁹
Our necessary actions, in the fear
¹ To cope malicious censurers ; which ever,
As ravenous fishes, do a vessel follow
That is new trimm'd ; but benefit no further
Than vainly longing. What we oft do best,
² By sick interpreters, once weak ones³, is

a word that could not offend the cardinal, and yet would incline
the king to give it a speedy hearing. I read therefore :

There is no primer business.

i. e. no matter of state that more earnestly presses a dispatch.

WARBURTON.

⁹ *We must not stint*] To *stint* is to *stop*, to *retard*. Many instances of this sense of the word are given in a note on the first act of *Romeo and Juliet*. STEEVENS.

¹ *To cope*—] To engage with ; to encounter. The word is still used in some counties. JOHNSON.

² *By sick &c.*] The old edition reads :

By sick interpreters, (once weak ones) is

Not ours,——

I do not know that the old reading ought to be restored, but it may be noted. JOHNSON.

The modern editors read——or weak ones ; but *once* is not unfrequently used for *sometime*, or *at one time or other*, among our ancient writers.

So, in the 13th *Idea* of Drayton :

“ This diamond shall *once* consume to dust.”

Again, in the *Merry Wives of Windsor* :—“ I pray thee *once* to-night give my sweet Nan this ring.” STEEVENS.

Not ours, or not allow'd ; ⁴ what worst, as oft,
 Hitting a grosser quality, is cry'd up
 For our best act. If we shall stand still,
 In fear our motion will be mock'd or carp'd at,
 We should take root here where we sit, or fit
 State statues only.

King. Things done well,
 And with a care, exempt themselves from fear ;
 Things done without example, in their issue
 Are to be fear'd. Have you a precedent
 Of this commission ? I believe, not any.
 We must not rend our subjects from our laws,
 And stick them in our will. Sixth part of each ?
 A trembling contribution ! Why, we take,
⁵ From every tree, lop, bark, and part o' the timber ;
 And, though we leave it with a root, thus hack'd,
 The air will drink the sap. To every county,
 Where this is question'd, send our letters, with
 Free pardon to each man that has deny'd
 The force of this commission : Pray, look to't ;
 I put it to your care.

Wol. A word with you. [*To the Secretary.*]
 Let there be letters writ to ever shire,
 Of the king's grace and pardon. The griev'd com-
 mons
 Hardly conceive of me ; let it be nois'd,
 That, through our intercession ⁶, this revokement

⁴ ——— what worst, as oft,
 Hitting a grosser quality, ———]

The worst actions of great men are commended by the vulgar, as more accommodated to the grossness of their notions. JOHNSON.

⁵ From every tree, lop, bark, and part o' the timber ;] *Lop* is a substantive, and signifies the branches. WARBURTON.

⁶ That through our intercession, &c.] So, in Holinshed, p. 892 :
 " The cardinall, to deliver himself from the evill will of the
 commons, purchased by procuring and advancing of this demand,
 affirmed, and caused it to be bruted abroad that *through his inter-
 cession* the king had pardoned and released all things." STEEVENS.

And pardon comes : I shall anon advise you
Further in the proceeding. [Exit Secretary.

Enter Surveyor.

Queen. I am sorry, that the duke of Buckingham
Is run in your displeasure.

King. It grieves many :
The gentleman is learn'd⁷, a most rare speaker,
To nature none more bound ; his training such,
That he may furnish and instruct great teachers,
And never seek for aid⁸ out of himself. Yet see,
When these so⁹ noble benefits shall prove
Not well dispos'd, the mind growing once corrupt,
They turn to vicious forms, ten times more ugly
Than ever they were fair. ' This man, so compleat,
Who

⁷ *The gentleman is learn'd, &c.*] It appears from " The Prologue of the translatour," that the *Knyght of the Swanne*, a French romance, was translated at the request of this unfortunate nobleman. Copland the printer, adds, " this present history compyled, named *Helyas the Knight of the Swanne, of whom linially is descended my said lord.*" The duke was executed on Friday the 17th of May, 1521. The book has no date.

STEEVENS.

⁸ ———out of himself.——] Beyond the treasures of his own mind. JOHNSON.

⁹ ———noble benefits——

Not well dispos'd, ——]

Great gifts of nature and education, not joined with good dispositions. JOHNSON.

¹ ———*This man, so compleat,*

Who was enroll'd 'mongst wonders, and when we,

Almost with list'ning ravish'd, could not find

His hour of speech, a minute ; he, my lady, &c.]

This sentence is broken and confused, though, with the allowances always to be made to our authour, it may be understood. Yet it may be proper to examine the old edition, which gives it thus :

———*and when we,*

Almost with ravish'd list'ning ——

I know

Who was enroll'd 'mongst wonders, and when we,
 Almost with ravish'd list'ning, could not find
 His hour of speech a minute; he, my lady,
 Hath into monstrous habits put the graces
 That once were his, and is become as black *
 As if besmear'd in hell. Sit by us; you shall hear
 (This was his gentleman in trust) of him
 Things to strike honour sad.—Bid him recount
 The fore-recited practices; whereof
 We cannot feel too little, hear too much.

Wol. Stand forth; and with bold spirit relate what
 you,

Most like a careful subject, have collected
 Out of the duke of Buckingham,

King. Speak freely.

Surv. First, it was usual with him, every day
 It would infect his speech, That if the king
 Should without issue die, he'd carry it so
 To make the scepter his: These very words
 I have heard him utter to his son-in-law,
 Lord Abergavenny; to whom by oath he menac'd
 Revenge upon the cardinal.

Wol. Please your highness, note

I know not whether we may not read:

——— *this man*

Who was enroll'd with wonder, and whom we

Almost were ravish'd listening, could not find

His hour of speech a minute.

To listen a man, for, to hearken to him, is commonly used by our
 author. So, by *Milton*:

“ *I listen'd them a while.*”

I do not rate my conjecture at much; but as the common reading
 is without authority, something may be tried. Perhaps the
 passage is best as it was originally published. JOHNSON.

² ——— *is become as black*

As if besmear'd in hell.]

So, in *Othello*:

“ ——— Her name, that was as fresh

“ As Dian's visage, is now begrim'd and black

“ As mine own face.” STEEVENS.

³ This dangerous conception in this point.
Not friended by his wish, to your high person.
His will is most malignant ; and it stretches
Beyond you, to your friends.

Queen. My learn'd lord cardinal,
Deliver all with charity.

King. Speak on :
How grounded he his title to the crown,
Upon our fail ? to this point hast thou heard him
At any time speak ought ?

Surv. He was brought to this

⁴ By a vain prophecy of Nicholas Hopkins.

King. What was that Hopkins ?

Surv. Sir, a Chartreux friar,
His confessor ; who fed him every minute
With words of sovereignty.

King. How know'st thou this ?

Surv. Not long before your highness sped to France,
The duke being at the Rose, within the parish
Saint Lawrence Poultney, did of me demand
What was the speech among the Londoners
Concerning the French journey : I reply'd,

³ *This dangerous conception in this point.*] Note this particular part of this dangerous design. JOHNSON.

⁴ *By a vain prophecy of Nicholas Hopkins.*] In former editions :
By a vain prophecy of Nicholas Henton.

We heard before, from Brandon, of one Nicholas Hopkins ; and now his name is changed into Henton ; so that Brandon and the surveyor seem to be in two stories. There is, however, but one and the same person meant, Hopkins ; as I have restored it in the text, for per'p'uity's sake : yet will it not be any difficulty to account for the other name, when we come to consider, that he was a monk of the convent, call'd Henton, near Bristol. So both Hall and Holinshed acquaint us. And he might, according to the custom of these times, be called Nicholas of Henton, from the place ; as Hopkins from his family. THEOBALD.

This mistake, as it was undoubtedly made by Shakespeare, is worth a note. It would be doing too great an honour to the players to suppose them capable of being the authors of it. STEEVENS.

Men fear'd, the French would prove perfidious,
 To the king's danger. Presently the duke
 Said, 'Twas the fear, indeed; and that he doubted,
 'Twould prove the verity of certain words
 Spoke by a holy monk; *that oft*, says he,
Hath sent to me, wishing me to permit
John de la Court, my chaplain, a choice hour
To hear from him a matter of some moment:
Whom after⁵ under the confession's seal
He solemnly had sworn, that, what he spoke,
My chaplain to no creature living, but
To me, should utter, with demure confidence
This pausingly ensu'd,—Neither the king nor his heirs,
(Tell you the duke) shall prosper: bid him strive
For the love⁶ of the commonalty; the duke
Shall govern England.——

Queen. If I know you well,
 You were the duke's surveyor, and lost your office
 On the complaint o' the tenants: Take good heed,
 You charge not in your spleen a noble person,
 And spoil your nobler soul; I say, take heed;
 Yes, heartily beseech you.

King. Let him on:—
 Go forward.

Surv. On my soul, I'll speak but truth.
 I told my lord the duke, By the devil's illusions

⁵ —— *under the commission's seal*

He solemnly had sworn,——]

So, all the editions down from the very beginning. But what *commission's seal*? That is a question, I dare say, none of our diligent editors ever asked themselves. The text must be restored, as I have corrected it; and honest Holinshed, from whom our author took the substance of this passage, may be called in as a testimony.—“The duke in talk told the monk, that he had done very well to bind his chaplain, John de la Court, under the seal of *confession*, to keep secret such matter.” *Vid.* Life of Hen. VIII. p. 863. THEOBALD.

⁶ *For the love*] The old copy reads—*To the love.* STEEVENS.

The monk might be deceiv'd; and that 'twas
dang'rous for him

To ruminate on this so far, until
It forg'd him some design, which, being believ'd,
It was much like to do: He answer'd, *Tush!*
It can do me no damage: adding further,
That, had the king in his last sickness fail'd,
The cardinal's and sir Thomas Lovel's heads
Should have gone off.

King. Ha! what, so rank^s? Ah, ha!
There's mischief in this man:—Canst thou say fur-
ther?

Surv. I can my liege.

King. Proceed.

Surv. Being at Greenwich,
After your highness had reprov'd the duke
About sir William Blomer,—

King. I remember
Of such a time:—⁶ Being my sworn servant,
The duke retain'd him his.—But on; What hence?

Surv. If, quoth he, *I for this had been committed,*
As to the Tower, I thought, I would have play'd
The part my father meant to act upon
The usurper Richard: who, being at Salisbury,
Made suit to come in his presence; which if granted,
As he made semblance of his duty, would
Have put his knife into him.

King. A giant traitor!

Wol. Now, madam, may his highness live in
freedom,
And this man out of prison?

^s —so rank?—] Rank weeds, are weeds that are grown up to great height and strength. *What, says the king, was he advanced to this pitch?* JOHNSON.

⁶ ——— Being my sworn servant, &c.] Sir William Blomer (Holinshed calls him *Bulmer*) was reprimanded by the king in the star-chamber, for that, being his sworn servant, he had left the king's service for the duke of Buckingham's. *Edward's* MISS. STEEVENS.

Queen. God mend all !

King. There's something more would out of thee ;
What say'st ?

Surv. After — *the duke his father,* — with — *the knife,* —

He stretch'd him, and, with one hand on his dagger,
Another spread on his breast, mounting his eyes,
He did discharge a horrible oath ; whose tenour
Was, — Were he evil us'd, he would out-go
His father, by as much as a performance
Does an irresolute purpose.

King. There's his period,
To sheath his knife in us. He is attach'd ;
Call him to present trial : if he may
Find mercy in the law, 'tis his ; if none,
Let him not seek't of us : By day and night,
He's traitor to the height. [*Exeunt.*

S C E N E III.

An Apartment in the Palace.

Enter the Lord Chamberlain, and Lord Sands.

Cham. ' Is it possible, the spells of France should
juggle
Men into such strange mysteries ?

Sands.

*' Is it possible, the spells of France should juggle
Men into such strange mysteries ?]*

These *mysteries* were the fantastic court-fashions. He says they were occasioned by the *spells* of France. Now it was the opinion of the common people, that conjurers, jugglers, &c. with *spells* and *charms* could force men to commit idle fantastic actions ; and change even their shapes to something ridiculous and grotesque. To this superstition the poet alludes, who, therefore, we must think, wrote the second line thus :

Men into such strange mockeries.

A word well expressive of the whimsical fashions here complained of. Sir Thomas More, speaking of this very matter, at the same time, says :

U

Sands. New customs,
Though they be never so ridiculous,
Nay, let 'em be unmanly, yet are follow'd.

Cham. As far as I see, all the good, our English
Have got by the late voyage, is but merely
* A fit or two o'the face; but they are shrewd ones;
For, when they hold 'em, you would swear directly,
Their very noses had been counsellors
To Pepin, or Clotharius, they keep state so.

Sands. They have all new legs, and lame ones; one
would take it,
That never saw them pace before, the spavin
° And springhalt reign'd among 'em.

Cham.

“ *Ut more simiæ laboret fingere*

“ *Et æmulari Gallicas ineptias.*”

But the Oxford editor, without regard to the metaphor, but in order to improve on the emendation, reads *mimick'ries*; not considering neither that whatsoever any thing is changed or juggled into by *spells*, must have a *passive* signification, as *mockeries*, [i. e. visible figures] not an *active*, as *mimick'ries*. WARBURTON.

I do not deny this note to be plausible, but am in doubt whether it be right. I believe the explanation of the word *mysteries* will spare us the trouble of trying experiments of emendation. *Mysteries* were allegorical shews, which the *munners* of those times exhibited in odd and fantastic habits. *Mysteries* are used, by an easy figure, for those that exhibited *mysteries*; and the sense is only, that the travelled Englishmen were metamorphosed, by foreign fashions, into such an uncouth appearance, that they looked like *munners* in a mystery. JOHNSON.

* *A fit or two o' the face; —*] A fit of the face seems to be what we now term a *grimace*, an artificial cast of the countenance.

JOHNSON.

Fletcher has more plainly expressed the same thought in *The Elder Brother*:

“ — learnt new tongues —

“ To vary his face as seamen do their compass.

STEEVENS.

° *And springhalt reign'd among 'em.*] The *stringhalt*, or *springhalt*, (as the old copy reads) is a disease incident to horses, which gives them a convulsive motion in their paces.

So, in *Muleasses the Turk*, 1610:

“ — by reason of a general *spring-balt* and debility in their hams.”

Again,

Cham. Death ! my lord,
 Their cloaths are after such a pagan cut too,
 That, sure, they have worn out christendom. How
 now ?
 What news, fir Thomas Lovel ?

Enter Sir Thomas Lovel.

Lov. Faith, my lord,
 I hear of none, but the new proclamation
 That's clapp'd upon the court gate.

Cham. What is't for ?

Lov. The reformation of our travell'd gallants,
 That fill the court with quarrels, talk, and tailors.

Cham. I am glad, 'tis there ; now I would pray
 our monfieurs
 To think an English courtier may be wise,
 And never see the Louvre.

Lov. They must either
 (For so run the conditions) leave these remnants
 Of fool, and feather', that they got in France,
 With all their honourable points of ignorance
 Pertaining thereunto, (as fights, and fire-works ;

Again, in Ben Jonson's *Bartholomew-Fair* :

" Poor foul, she has had a *stringhalt*." STEEVENS.

" —leave those remnants

Of fool and feather,]

This does not allude to the *feathers* anciently worn in the hats and caps of our countrymen, (a circumstance to which no ridicule could justly belong) but to an effeminate fashion recorded in Greene's *Farewell to Folly*, 1617 ; from whence it appears that even young gentlemen carried *fans of feathers* in their hands : " —we strive to be counted womanish, by keeping of beauty, by curling the hair, by wearing *plumes of feathers in our hands*, which in wars, our ancestors wore on their heads." Again, in his *Quip for an upstart Courtier*, 1620 : " Then our young courtiers strove to exceed one another in vertue not in bravery ; they rode not with *fannes* to ward their faces from the wind, &c." Again, in *Lingua*, &c. 1607. Phantastes, who is a male character, is equipped with a *fan*. STEEVENS.

Abus-

Abusing better men than they can be,
 Out of a foreign wisdom) renouncing clean
 The faith they have in tennis, and tall stockings,
 Short blister'd breeches², and those types of travel,
 And understand again like honest men;
 Or pack to their old play-fellows: there, I take it,
 They may, *cum privilegio*, wear away
 The lag end of their lewdness, and be laugh'd at.

Sands. 'Tis time to give them physick, their diseases
 Are grown so catching.

Cham. What a loss our ladies
 Will have of these trim vanities!

Lov. Ay, marry,
 There will be woe indeed, lords: the fly whoresons
 Have got a speeding trick to lay down ladies;
 A French song, and a fiddle, has no fellow.

Sands. The devil fiddle 'em! I am glad, they're
 going;

(For, sure, there's no converting of 'em) now
 An honest country lord, as I am, beaten
 A long time out of play, may bring his plain-song,
 And have an hour of hearing; and, by'r-lady,
 Held current musick too.

Cham. Well said, lord Sands;
 Your colt's tooth is not cast yet.

Sands. No, my lord;
 Nor shall not, while I have a stump.

Cham. Sir Thomas,
 Whither were you a going?

Lov. To the cardinal's;
 Your lordship is a guest too.

Cham. O, 'tis true:
 This night he makes a supper, and a great one,
 To many lords and ladies; there will be
 The beauty of this kingdom, I'll assure you.

² —blister'd breeches,] Thus the old copy. i. e. breeches puff'd, swell'd out like blisters. The modern editors read—bolster'd breeches, which has the same meaning. STEEVENS.

Lov. That churchman bears a bounteous mind indeed,

A hand as fruitful as the land that feeds us;
His dews fall every where.

Cham. No doubt, he's noble;
He had a black mouth, that said other of him.

Sands. He may, my lord, he has wherewithal; in him,

Sparing would shew a worse sin than ill doctrine:
Men of his way should be most liberal,
They are set here for examples.

Cham. True, they are so;
But few now give so great ones. My barge stays;
Your lordship shall along:—Come, good sir Thomas,

We shall be late else; which I would not be,
For I was spoke to, with sir Henry Guilford,
This night to be comptrollers.

Sands. I am your lordship's. [*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.

Changes to York-Place.

Hautboys. A small table under a state for the Cardinal,
a longer table for the guests. Then enter Anne Bullen,
and divers other ladies and gentlewomen, as guests, at
one door; at another door, enter Sir Henry Guilford.

Guil. Ladies, a general welcome from his grace
Salutes you all: This night he dedicates
To fair content, and you: none here, he hopes,
In all this noble bevy, has brought with her
One care abroad; he would have all as merry

³ — noble bevy—] Milton has copied this word:

“A bevy of fair dames.” JOHNSON.

* As first-good company, good wine, good welcome,
Can make good people.—O, my lord, you are tardy ;

Enter Lord Chamberlain, Lord Sands, and sir Thomas Lovel.

The very thought of this fair company
Clap'd wings to me.

Cham. You are young, fir Harry Guilford.

Sands. Sir Thomas Lovel, had the cardinal
But half my lay-thoughts in him, some of these
Should find a running banquet ere they rested,
I think, would better please 'em : By my life,
They are a sweet society of fair ones.

Lov. O, that your lordship were but now confessor
To one or two of these !

Sands. I would, I were ;
They should find easy penance.

Lov. 'Faith, how easy ?

Sands. As easy as a down-bed would afford it.

Cham. Sweet ladies, will it please you sit ? Sir
Harry,

Place you that side, I'll take the charge of this :
His grace is entring.—Nay, you must not freeze ;
Two women plac'd together make cold weather :—
My lord Sands, you are one will keep 'em waking ;
Pray, sit between these ladies.

Sands. By my faith,

* *As, first, good company, good wine, &c.]* As this passage has
been all along pointed, fir Harry Guilford is made to include all
these under the *first* article ; and then gives us the drop as to what
should follow. The poet, I am persuaded, wrote :

As first-good company, good wine, good welcome, &c.

i. e. he would have you as merry as these three things can make
you, the best company in the land, of the best rank, good wine,
&c. THEOBALD.

Sir T. Hanmer has mended it more elegantly, but with greater
violence :

As first, good company, then good wine, &c. JOHNSON.

And thank you lordship.—By your leave, sweet ladies : [Sits.]

If I chance to talk a little wild, forgive me ;
I had it from my father.

Anne. Was he mad, fir ?

Sands. O, very mad, exceeding mad, in love too :
But he would bite none ; just as I do now,
He would kiss you twenty with a breath. [Kisses her.]

Cham. Well said, my lord.—
So, now you are fairly seated :—Gentlemen,
The penance lies on you, if these fair ladies
Pass away frowning.

Sands. For my little cure,
Let me alone.

Hautboys. Enter Cardinal Wolsey, and takes his state.

Wol. You are welcome, my fair guests ; that
noble lady,
Or gentleman, that is not freely merry,
Is not my friend : This, to confirm my welcome ;
And to you all good health. [Drinks.]

Sands. Your grace is noble :—
Let me have such a bowl may hold my thanks,
And save me so much talking.

Wol. My lord Sands,
I am beholden to you : cheer your neighbours.—
Ladies, you are not merry ;—Gentlemen,
Whose fault is this ?

Sands. The red wine first must rise
In their fair cheeks, my lord ; then we shall have 'em
Talk us to silence.

Anne. You are a merry gamester,
My lord Sands.

Sands. Yes, if I make my play ⁷.

⁷ ——— if I make my play.] i. e. if I make my party.

Here's to your ladyship : and pledge it, madam,
For 'tis to such a thing,—

Anne. You cannot shew me.

Sands. I told your grace, they would talk anon.

[*Drum and trumpets, chambers discharg'd*⁶.

Wol. What's that ?

Cham. Look out there, some of you. [*Exit Servant.*

Wol. What warlike voice ?

And to what end is this ?—Nay, ladies, fear not ;
By all the laws of war you are privileg'd.

Re-enter Servant.

Cham. How now ? what is't ?

Serv. A noble troop of strangers ;
For so they seem : they have left their barge, and
landed ;

And hither make, as great ambassadors
From foreign princes.

Wol. Good lord chamberlain,
Go, give 'em welcome, you can speak the French
tongue ;

And, pray, receive 'em nobly, and conduct 'em
Into our presence, where this heaven of beauty
Shall shine at full upon them :—Some attend him.—

[*All arise, and tables removed.*

⁶ — [*Chambers discharg'd.*] A chamber is a gun which stands erect on its breech. Such are used only on occasions of rejoicing, and are so contrived as to carry great charges, and thereby to make a noise more than proportioned to their bulk. They are called *chambers* because they are mere *chambers* to lodge powder ; a *chamber* being the technical term for that cavity in a piece of ordnance which contains the combustibles. Some of them are still fired in the Park, and at the places opposite to the parliament-house, when the king goes thither. Camden enumerates them among other guns, as follows :—"cannons, demi-cannons, *chambers*, arquebuc, musquet."

Again, in *A New Trick to cheat the Devil*, 1636 :

" — I still think o' the Tower ordinance,

" Or of the peal of *chambers*, that's still fir'd

" When my lord-mayor takes his barge." STEEVENS.

You have now a broken banquet; but we'll mend it.
A good digestion to you all: and, once more,
I shower a welcome on you;—Welcome all.

Hautboys. Enter the King, and others, as Maskers⁷, habited like Shepherds, usher'd by the Lord Chamberlain. They pass directly before the Cardinal, and gracefully salute him.

A noble company! What are their pleasures?

Cham. Because they speak no English, thus they pray'd

To tell your grace;—That, having heard by fame
Of this so noble and so fair assembly
This night to meet here, they could do no less,
Out of the great respect they bear to beauty,
But leave their flocks; and, under your fair conduct,
Crave leave to view these ladies, and entreat
An hour of revels with them.

Wol. Say, lord chamberlain,
They have done my poor house grace; for which I
pay them

A thousand thanks, and pray them take their pleasures.

[Chuse ladies for the dance. King, and Anne Bullen.

King. The fairest hand I ever touch'd! O, beauty,
'Till now I never knew thee. *[Musick. Dance.*

Wol. My lord,—

Cham. Your grace?

Wol. Pray, tell 'em thus much from me:
There should be one amongst 'em, by his person,
More worthy this place than myself; to whom,
If I but knew him, with my love and duty
I would surrender it.

Cham. I will, my lord.

[Cham. goes to the company, and returns.

⁷ *Enter the king, and others, as maskers.*] For an account of this masque see Holinshed, Vol. II. p. 921. STEEVENS.

Wol. What say they?

Cham. Such a one, they all confess,
There is, indeed; which they would have your grace
Find out, and he will ⁸ take it.

Wol. Let me see then.—

By all your good leaves, gentlemen;—Here I'll make
My royal choice.

King. ⁹ You have found him, cardinal:
You hold a fair assembly; you do well, lord:
You are a churchman, or, I'll tell you, cardinal,
I should judge now 'unhappily.

Wol. I am glad,
Your grace is grown so pleasant.

King. My lord chamberlain,
Pry'thee, come hither: What fair lady's that?

Cham. An't please your grace, fir Thomas Bullen's
daughter,
The viscount Rochford, one of her highness' women.

King. By heaven, she is a dainty one.—Sweet heart,
I were unmannerly, to take you out, [*To Anne Bullen.*
And not to kifs you ².—A health, gentlemen,

⁸ —take it.] That is, take the chief place. JOHNSON.

⁹ *You have found him, cardinal:]* Holinshed says the cardinal
mistook, and pitched upon fir Edward Neville; upon which the
king laughed, and pulled off both his own mask and fir Edward's.
Edward's MSS. STEEVENS.

¹ —unhappily.] That is, unluckily, mischievously. JOHNSON.
So, in *A merye Jest of a Man called Howleglas*, bl. l. no date:

“—in such manner colde he cloke and hyde his unhappinesse
and falsnesse.” STEEVENS.

² *I were unmannerly to take you out,
And not to kifs you.]*

A kifs was anciently the established fee of a lady's partner. So,
in *A Dialogue between Custom and Veritie, concerning the Use and
Abuse of Dauncing and Minstrelsic*, bl. l. no date. “Imprinted at
London, at the long shop adjoining unto saint Mildreds church in
the Pultrie, by John Allde.”

“But some reply, what foole would daunce,

“If that when daunce is doon,

“He may not have at ladyes lips

“That which in daunce he wooon?” STEEVENS.

Let it go round.

Wol. Sir Thomas Lovel, is the banquet ready
I' the privy chamber?

Lov. Yes, my lord.

Wol. Your grace,
I fear, with dancing is a little heated.

King. I fear, too much.

Wol. There's fresher air, my lord,
In the next chamber.

King. Lead in your ladies, every one.—Sweet
partner,

I must not yet forsake you :—Let's be merry ;—
Good my lord cardinal, I have half a dozen healths
To drink to these fair ladies, and a measure
To lead them once again ; and then let's dream
Who's best in favour.—Let the musick knock it.

[*Exeunt, with trumpets.*]

ACT II. SCENE I.

A Street.

Enter two Gentlemen at several doors.

1 *Gen.* Whither away so fast?

2 *Gen.* O,—God save you!

Even to the hall, to hear what shall become
Of the great duke of Buckingham.

1 *Gen.* I'll save you

That labour, sir. All's now done, but the ceremony
Of bringing back the prisoner.

2 *Gen.* Were you there?

1 *Gen.* Yes, indeed, was I.

2 *Gen.* Pray, speak, what has happen'd?

1 *Gen.*

1 Gen. You may guess quickly what.

2 Gen. Is he found guilty?

1 Gen. Yes, truly, is he, and condemn'd upon it.

2 Gen. I am sorry for't.

1 Gen. So are a number more.

2 Gen. But, pray, how pass'd it?

1 Gen. I'll tell you in a little. The great duke
Came to the bar; where, to his accusations,
He pleaded still, not guilty, and alledg'd
Many sharp reasons to defeat the law.
The king's attorney, on the contrary,
Urg'd on the examinations, proofs, confessions
Of divers witnesses; which the duke desir'd
To have brought, *viva voce*, to his face:
At which appear'd against him, his surveyor;
Sir Gilbert Peck his chancellor; and John Court,
Confessor to him; with that devil-monk
Hopkins, that made this mischief.

2 Gen. That was he,

That fed him with his prophecies?

1 Gen. The same.

All these accus'd him strongly; which he fain
Would have flung from him, but, indeed, he could
not:

And so his peers, upon this evidence,
Have found him guilty of high treason. Much
He spoke, and learnedly, for life; but all
Was either pitied in him, or forgotten.

2 Gen. After all this, how did he bear himself?

1 Gen. When he was brought again to the bar,—
to hear

His knell rung out, his judgment,—he was stirr'd
With such an agony, he sweat extremely³,
And something spoke in choler, ill, and hasty:

³ ——— *he sweat extremely*;] This circumstance is taken from
Holinshed. - "After he was found guilty, the duke was brought
to the bar, fore chafing, and sweat marvelously." STEEVENS.

But he fell to himself again, and, sweetly,
In all the rest shew'd a most noble patience.

2 Gen. I do not think, he fears death.

1 Gen. Sure, he does not,
He never was so womanish; the cause
He may a little grieve at.

2 Gen. Certainly,
The cardinal is the end of this.

1 Gen. 'Tis likely,
By all conjectures: First, Kildare's attainder,
Then deputy of Ireland; who remov'd,
Earl Surrey was sent thither, and in haste too,
Lest he should help his father.

2 Gen. That trick of state
Was a deep envious one.

1 Gen. At his return,
No doubt, he will requite it. This is noted,
And generally; whoever the king favours,
The cardinal instantly will find employment,
And far enough from court too.

2 Gen. All the commons
Hate him perniciously, and, o' my conscience,
With him ten fathom deep: this duke as much
They love and doat on; call him, bounteous Buck-
ingham,

The mirror of all courtesy;—

1 Gen. Stay there, sir,
And see the noble ruin'd man you speak of.

Enter Buckingham from his arraignment, (Tiptaves before him, the axe with the edge toward him; halberds on each side) accompanied with Sir Thomas Lovel, Sir Nicholas Vaux, Sir William⁴ Sands, and common people, &c.

2 Gen. Let's stand close, and behold him.

Buck. All good people,

⁴ Sir William.] The old copy reads, Sir Walter. STEEVENS.

You that thus far have come to pity me,
 Hear what I say, and then go home and lose me.
 I have this day receiv'd a traitor's judgment,
 And by that name must die; Yet, heaven bear witness,
 And, if I have a conscience, let it sink me,
 Even as the axe falls, if I be not faithful!
 The law I bear no malice for my death,
 'T has done, upon the premises, but justice;
 But those, that fought it, I could wish more christians:

Be what they will, I heartily forgive 'em:
 Yet let 'em look they glory not in mischief,
 Nor build their evils on the graves of great men;
 For then my guiltless blood must cry against 'em.
 For further life in this world I ne'er hope,
 Nor will I sue, although the king have mercies
 More than I dare make faults. ^s You few that lov'd
 me,

And dare be bold to weep for Buckingham,
 His noble friends, and fellows, whom to leave
 Is only bitter to him, only dying,
 Go with me, like good angels, to my end;
 And, as the long divorce of steel falls on me,
 Make of your prayers one sweet sacrifice,
 And lift my soul to heaven.—Lead on, o' God's name.

Lov. I do beseech your grace, for charity,
 If ever any malice in your heart
 Were hid against me, now to forgive me frankly.

Buck. Sir Thomas Lovel, I as free forgive you,
 As I would be forgiven: I forgive all;
 There cannot be those numberless offences
 'Gainst me, that I can't take peace with: ⁶ no black
 envy

Shall

^s ———— *You few, that lov'd me, &c.*] These lines are remarkably tender and pathetic. JOHNSON.

⁶ ———— *no black envy*
Shall make my grave. ————]

Shall make my grave.—Commend me to his grace ;
 And, if he speak of Buckingham, pray, tell him,
 You met him half in heaven : my vows and prayers
 Yet are the king's ; and, 'till my soul forsake me,

The sense of this is, that envy should not procure or advance his death. But this is not what he would say ; he believed the cardinal's envy did procure his death. He is speaking not of another's envy but his own. And his thought is, that he would not be remembered for an implacable unforgiving temper. We should read therefore :

————— *no black envy.*

Shall mark my grave. —

alluding to the old custom of marking good or ill, by a *white* or *black* stone. WARBURTON.

Dr. Warburton has with good judgment observed the error, but has not, I think, very happily corrected it. I do not see how the envy of those that are buried can *mark* the grave. In reading the lines I cannot but suspect that two words, as it may naturally happen, have changed places :

There cannot be those numberless offences

'Gainst me, I can't take peace with : no black envy

Shall make my grave. —

I would read thus :

There cannot be those numberless offences

'Gainst me, I can't make peace with, no black envy

Shall take my grave. —

To take, in this place, is to blast, to strike with malignant influence. So, in *Lear* :

“ — Strike her young limbs,

“ Ye taking airs, with lameness.

Again, in *Hamlet* :

“ — No spirit dares walk abroad,

“ No planet takes. — ” JOHNSON.

I believe Shakespeare, by this expression, meant no more than to make the duke say, *No action expressive of malice shall conclude my life.* Envy by our author is used for malice and hatred in other places, and, perhaps, in this.

Again, in the ancient metrical romance of *Syr Bevis of Hampton*, bl. l. no date :

“ Traytoure, he sayd with great envy,

“ Turne thee now I thee deſye.”

Again :

“ They drewe theyr swordes hastily

“ And smot together with great envy.”

And Barrett, in his *Allegoric, or Quadruple Dictionary*, 1580, thus interprets it. STEEVENS.

Shall

Shall cry for blessings on him: May he live
 Longer than I have time to tell his years!
 Ever belov'd, and loving, may his rule be!
 And, when old time shall lead him to his end,
 Goodness and he fill up one monument!

Lov. To the water side I must conduct your grace;
 Then give my charge up to sir Nicholas Vaux,
 Who undertakes you to your end.

Vaux. Prepare there,
 The duke is coming: see, the barge be ready;
 And fit it with such furniture, as suits
 The greatness of his person.

Buck. Nay, sir Nicholas,
 Let it alone; my state now but will mock me.
 When I came hither, I was lord high constable,
 And duke of Buckingham; now, poor Edward
 Bohun⁷:

Yet I am richer than my base accusers,
 That never knew what truth meant: ⁸ I now seal it;

⁷ —*poor Edward Bohun*:] The duke of Buckingham's name was Stafford, Shakespeare was led into the mistake by Holinshed.
 STEEVENS.

This is not an expression thrown out at random, or by mistake, but one strongly marked with historical propriety. The name of the duke of Buckingham most generally known, was *Stafford*; but the *Hist. of Remarkable Trials*, 8vo. 1715, p. 170, says: "it seems he affected that surname [of *Bobun*] before that of *Stafford*, he being descended from the *Bobuns*, earls of Hereford." His reason for this might be, because he was lord high constable of England by inheritance of tenure from the *Bobuns*; and as the poet has taken particular notice of his great office, does it not seem probable that he had fully considered of the duke's foundation for assuming the name of *Bobun*? In truth, the duke's name was *BAGOT*; for a gentleman of that very ancient family married the heiress of the barony of Stafford, and their son relinquishing his paternal surname, assumed that of his mother, which continued in his posterity. TOLLET.

⁸ —*I now seal it, &c.*] I now seal my truth, my loyalty, with blood, which blood shall one day make them groan.

JOHNSON.

And with that blood, will make 'em one day groan
for't.

My noble father, Henry of Buckingham,
Who first rais'd head against usurping Richard,
Flying for succour to his servant Banister,
Being distress'd, was by that wretch betray'd,
And without trial fell; God's peace be with him!
Henry the seventh succeeding, truly pitying
My father's loss, like a most royal prince,
Restor'd me to my honours, and, out of ruins,
Made my name once more noble. Now his son,
Henry the eighth, life, honour, name, and all
That made me happy, at one stroke has taken
For ever from the world. I had my trial,
And, must needs say, a noble one; which makes me
A little happier than my wretched father:
Yet thus far we are one in fortunes,—Both
Fell by our servants, by those men we lov'd most;
A most unnatural and faithless service!
Heaven has an end in all: Yet, you that hear me,
This from a dying man receive as certain:—
Where you are liberal of your loves, and counsels,
Be sure, you be not loose; for those you make friends,
And give your hearts to, when they once perceive
The least rub in your fortunes, fall away
Like water from ye, never found again
But where they mean to sink ye. All good people,
Pray for me! I must now forsake you; the last hour
Of my long weary life is come upon me.
Farewel:
And when you would say something that is sad⁹,

⁹ *And when you would say something that is sad &c.*] So, in
K. Richard II.:

“ Tell thou the lamentable tale of me,

“ And send the hearers weeping to their beds.

STEEVENS.

Speak how I fell.—I have done ; and God forgive me !
[*Exeunt Buckingham, and Train.*]

1 *Gen.* O, this is full of pity !—Sir, it calls,
I fear, too many curses on their heads,
That were the authors.

2 *Gen.* If the duke be guiltless,
'Tis full of woe : yet I can give you inkling
Of an ensuing evil, if it fall,
Greater than this.

1 *Gen.* Good angels keep it from us !
What may it be ? You do not doubt my faith, sir ?

2 *Gen.* This secret is so weighty, 'twill require
'A strong faith to conceal it.

1 *Gen.* Let me have it ;
I do not talk much.

2 *Gen.* I am confident ;
You shall, sir : Did you not of late days hear
A buzzing, of a separation
Between the king and Katharine ?

1 *Gen.* Yes, but it held not :
For when the king once heard it, out of anger
He sent command to the lord mayor, straight
To stop the rumour, and allay those tongues
That durst disperse it.

2 *Gen.* But that slander, sir,
Is found a truth now : for it grows again
Fresher than e'er it was ; and held for certain,
The king will venture at it. Either the cardinal,
Or some about him near, have, out of malice
To the good queen, possess'd him with a scruple
That will undo her : To confirm this too,
Cardinal Campeius is arriv'd, and lately ;
As all think, for this business.

1 *Gen.* 'Tis the cardinal ;
And meerly to revenge him on the emperor,
For not bestowing on him, at his asking,

' Strong faith—' is great fidelity. JOHNSON.

The

The archbishopsprick of Toledo, this is purpos'd.

2 Gen. I think, you have hit the mark : But is't not cruel,

That she should feel the smart of this ? The cardinal Will have his will, and she must fall.

1 Gen. 'Tis woeful.

We are too open here to argue this ;

Let's think in private more. [Exeunt.

S C E N E II.

An Antichamber in the Palace.

Enter the Lord Chamberlain, reading a letter.

My lord,—The horses your lordship sent for, with all the care I had, I saw well chosen, ridden, and furnished. They were young, and handsome ; and of the best breed in the north. When they were ready to set out for London, a man of my lord cardinal's, by commission, and main power, took 'em from me ; with this reason,—His master would be serv'd before a subject, if not before the king : which stopp'd our mouths, sir.

I fear, he will, indeed : Well, let him have them ; He will have all, I think.

Enter the Dukes of Norfolk, and Suffolk.

Nor. Well met, my lord chamberlain.

Cham. Good day to both your graces.

Suf. How is the king employ'd ?

Cham. I left him private,

Full of sad thoughts and troubles.

Nor. What's the cause ?

Cham. It seems, the marriage with his brother's wife Has crept too near his conscience.

Suf. No, his conscience

Has crept too near another lady.

Nor. 'Tis so ;

This

This is the cardinal's doing, the king-cardinal :
That blind priest, like the eldest son of fortune,
Turns what he lists. This king will know him one
day.

Suf. Pray God, he do ! he'll never know himself
else.

Nor. How holily he works in all his business !
And with what zeal ! For, now he has crack'd the
league

Between us and the emperor, the queen's great nephew,
He dives into the king's soul ; and there scatters
Doubts, dangers, wringing of the conscience,
Fears, and despairs, and all these for his marriage :
And, out of all these to restore the king,
He counsels a divorce : a loss of her,
That, like a jewel, has hung twenty years
About his neck, yet never lost her lustre ;
Of her, that loves him with that excellence
That angels love good men with ; even of her,
That, when the greatest stroke of fortune falls,
Will bless the king : And is not this course pious ?

Cham. Heaven keep me from such counsel ! 'Tis
most true,

These news are every where ; every tongue speaks 'em,
And every true heart weeps for't : All, that dare
Look into these affairs, see his main end,
The French king's sister². Heaven will one day open
The king's eyes, that so long have slept upon
This bold bad man.

Suf. And free us from his slavery.

Nor. We had need pray,
And heartily, for our deliverance ;
Or this imperious man will work us all
³ From princes into pages : all men's honours

² *The French king's sister.*] i. e. the duchess of Alençon.

STEEVENS.

³ *From princes into pages:—*] This may allude to the retinue of
the cardinal, who had several of the nobility among his menial
servants. JOHNSON.

Lie like one lump before him, to be fashion'd
 * Into what pitch he please.

Suf. For me, my lords,
 I love him not, nor fear him ; there's my creed :
 As I am made without him, so I'll stand,
 If the king please ; his curses and his blessings
 Touch me alike, they are breath I not believe in.
 I knew him, and I know him ; so I leave him
 To him, that made him proud, the pope.

Nor. Let's in ;
 And, with some other business, put the king
 From these sad thoughts, that work too much upon
 him :—

My lord, you'll bear us company ?

Cham. Excuse me ;
 The king hath sent me other-where : besides,
 You'll find a most unfit time to disturb him :
 Health to your lordships.

Nor. Thanks, my good lord chamberlain.

[*Exit Lord Chamberlain.*]

*A Door opens, and discovers the King sitting and reading
 pensively* ⁵.

Suf. How sad he looks ! sure, he is much afflicted.

King. Who's there ? ha ?

Nor. Pray God, he be not angry.

* *Into what pitch he please.*] Here is a strange dissonance in the metaphor, which is taken from unbak'd dough. I read :

Into what pinch he please.

i. e. into what shape he please. *WARBURTON.*

I do not think this emendation necessary, let the allusion be to what it will. The mass must be fashioned into *pitch* or height, as well as into particular form. The meaning is, that the cardinal can, as he pleases, make high or low. *JOHNSON.*

The allusion seems to be to the 21st verse of the 9th chapter of the Epistle of St. Paul to the *Romans* : " Hath not the potter power over the clay of the same lump, to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour ? " *COLLINS.*

⁵ *A door opens, &c.*] The stage direction in the old copy is a singular one. *Exit Lord Chamberlain, and the King draws the curtain, and sits reading pensively.* *STEEVENS.*

King.

King. Who's there, I say ? How dare you thrust yourselves

Into my private meditations ?

Who am I ? ha ?

Nor. A gracious king, that pardons all offences,
Malice ne'er meant : our breach of duty, this way,
Is business of estate ; in which, we come
To know your royal pleasure.

King. You are too bold :
Go to ; I'll make ye know your times of business :
Is this an hour for temporal affairs ? ha ?—

Enter Wolsey, and Campeius with a Commission.

Who's there ? my good lord cardinal ?—O my
Wolsey,

The quiet of my wounded conscience,
Thou art a cure fit for a king.—You're welcome,
[*To Campeius.*

Most learned reverend sir, into our kingdom ;
Use us, and it :—My good lord, ⁶ have great care
I be not found a talker. [*To Wolsey.*

Wol. Sir, you cannot.

I would, your grace would give us but an hour
Of private conference.

King. We are busy ; go. [*To Norf. and Suf.*

Nor. This priest has no pride in him ?

Suf. Not to speak of ;

I would not be ⁷ so sick though, for his place :
But this cannot continue. } *Aside.*

Nor. If it do,

I'll venture one heave at him.

Suf. I another. [*Exeunt Norfolk and Suffolk.*]

⁶ — have great care

I be not found a talker.]

I take the meaning to be, *Let care be taken that my promise be performed, that my professions of welcome be not found empty talk.*

JOHNSON.

⁷ — so sick though, —] That is, so sick as he is proud. JOHNSON.

Wol. Your grace has given a precedent of wisdom
 Above all princes, in committing freely
 Your scruple to the voice of Christendom :
 Who can be angry now ? what envy reach you ?
 The Spaniard, ty'd by blood and favour to her,
 Must now confess, if he have any goodness,
 The trial just and noble. All the clerks,
 I mean, the learned ones, in christian kingdoms,
 Have their free voices : Rome, the nurse of judgment,
 Invited by your noble self, hath sent
 One general tongue unto us, this good man,
 This just and learned priest, cardinal Campeius ;
 Whom, once more, I present unto your highness.

King. And, once more, in mine arms I bid him
 welcome,

And thank the holy conclave for their loves ;
 They have sent me such a man I would have wish'd for.

Cam. Your grace must needs deserve all strangers'
 loves,

You are so noble : To your highness' hand
 I tender my commission ; by whose virtue,
 (The court of Rome commanding)—you, my lord
 Cardinal of York, are join'd with me their servant,
 In the impartial judging of this business.

King. Two equal men. The queen shall be ac-
 quainted

Forthwith, for what you come :—Where's Gardiner ?

Wol. I know, your majesty has always lov'd her
 So dear in heart, not to deny her that
 A woman of less place might ask by law,
 Scholars, allow'd freely to argue for her.

King. Ay, and the best, she shall have ; and my
 favour

To him that does best ; God forbid else. Cardinal,
 Pr'ythee, call Gardiner to me, my new secretary ;
 I find him a fit fellow.

Cardinal goes out, and re-enters with Gardiner.

Wol. Give me your hand : much joy and favour to you ;

You are the king's now.

Gard. But to be commanded

For ever by your grace, whose hand has rais'd me.

[Aside.

King. Come hither, Gardiner. *[Walks and whispers.*

Cam. My lord of York, was not one doctor Pace in this man's place before him ?

Wol. Yes, he was.

Cam. Was he not held a learned man ?

Wol. Yes, surely.

Cam. Believe me, there's an ill opinion spread then Even of yourself, lord cardinal.

Wol. How ! of me ?

Cam. They will not stick to say, you envy'd him ; And, fearing he would rise, he was so virtuous, * Kept him a foreign man still : which so griev'd him, That he ran mad, and dy'd.

Wol. Heaven's peace be with him ! That's christian care enough : for living murmurers, There's places of rebuke. He was a fool ; For he would needs be virtuous : That good fellow, If I command him, follows my appointment ; I will have none so near else. Learn this, brother, We live not to be grip'd by meaner persons.

King. Deliver this with modesty to the queen.

[Exit Gardiner.

The most convenient place that I can think of, For such receipt of learning, is Black-Friars ; There ye shall meet about this weighty business :— My Wolsey, see it furnish'd.—O my lord, Would it not grieve an able man, to leave

* *Kept him a foreign man still:—*] Kept him out of the king's presence, employed in foreign embassies. JOHNSON.

So sweet a bedfellow ? But, conscience, conscience,—
O, 'tis a tender place, and I must leave her. [*Exeunt.*

S C E N E III.

An Antichamber of the Queen's Apartments.

Enter Anne Bullen, and an old Lady.

Anne. Not for that neither ;—Here's the pang that
pinches :

His highness having liv'd so long with her ; and she
So good a lady, that no tongue could ever
Pronounce dishonour of her,—by my life,
She never knew harm-doing ;—O now, after
So many courses of the sun enthron'd,
Still growing in a majesty and pomp,—the which
To leave is a thousand-fold more bitter, than
'Tis sweet at first to acquire,—after this process,
'To give her the avaunt ! it is a pity
Would move a monster.

Old L. Hearts of most hard temper
Melt and lament for her.

Anne. O, God's will ! much better,
She ne'er had known pomp : though it be temporal,
Yet, if that quarrel, fortune, do divorce

It

'To give her the avaunt !——] To send her away contemptu-
ously ; to pronounce against her a sentence of ejection.

JOHNSON.

'Yet, if that quarrel, Fortune,—] She calls Fortune a quarrel
or arrow, from her striking so deep and suddenly. *Quarrel* was a
large arrow so called. Thus *Fairfax* :

“——*Twang'd the string, out flew the quarrel long.*

WARBURTON.

Such is Dr. Warburton's interpretation. Sir Thomas Hanmer
reads :

That quarreller Fortune.

I think

It from the bearer, 'tis a sufferance, panging
As soul and body's fevering.

Old L. Alas, poor lady!
She's ² stranger now again.

Anne. So much the more
Must pity drop upon her. Verily,
I swear, 'tis better to be lowly born,
And range with humble livers in content,
Than to be perk'd up in a glistering grief,
And wear a golden sorrow.

Old L. Our content
Is ³ our best having.

I think the poet may be easily supposed to use *quarrel* for *quarrel-ler*, as *murder* for *murderer*, the act for the agent. JOHNSON.

Dr. Johnson may be right. So, in *Antony and Cleopatra*:

" ——— but that your royalty

" Holds idleness your subject, I should take you

" For *Idleness itself*."

Like Martial's—" *Non vitiosus homo es, Zoile, sed Vitium.*" We might, however, read——

Yet if that quarrel fortune to divorce

It from the bearer."—

i. e. if any quarrel *happen* or *chance* to divorce it from the bearer. To *fortune* is a verb used by Shakespeare:

" —I'll tell you as we pass along,

" That you will wonder what hath *fortuned*?"

Again, in Spenser's *Faery Queen*, B. I. c. ii:

" It *fortuned* (high heaven did so ordaine) &c."

STEEVENS.

² —*stranger now again*.] Again an alien; not only no longer queen, but no longer an Englishwoman. JOHNSON.

It rather means, she is alienated from the king's affection, is a stranger to his bed; for she still retained the rights of an Englishwoman, and was princess dowager of Wales. So, in the second scene of the third act:

" ——— Katharine no more

" Shall be call'd queen; but princess dowager,

" And widow to prince Arthur." TOLLET.

³ ———*our best having*.] That is, our best *possession*. So, in *Macbeth*:

" ——— Promises

" Of noble having and of royal hope.

In Spanish, *bazienda*. JOHNSON.

Anne. By my troth, and maidenhead,
I would not be a queen.

Old L. Beshrew me, I would,
And venture maidenhead for't; and so would you,
For all this spice of your hypocrisy:
You, that have so fair parts of woman on you,
Have too a woman's heart; which ever yet
Affected eminence, wealth, sovereignty;
Which, to say sooth, are blessings: and which gifts
(Saving your mincing) the capacity
Of your soft ⁴cheveril conscience would receive,
If you might please to stretch it.

Anne. Nay, good troth,—

Old L. Yes, troth and troth,—You would not be
a queen?

Anne. No, not for all the riches under heaven.

Old L. 'Tis strange; a three-pence bow'd would
hire me,

Old as I am, to queen it: But, I pray you,
What think you of a dutchess? have you limbs
To bear that load of title?

Anne. No, in truth.

Old L. Then you are weakly made; ⁵ Pluck off a
little;

⁴ ——— *cheveril*—] is kid-skin, soft-leather. JOHNSON.
So, in *Histrionastix*, 1610:

“The *cheveril* conscience of corrupted law.” STEEVENS.

⁵ ——— *Pluck off a little*;) What must she pluck off? I think
we may better read:

————— *Pluck up a little.*

Pluck up! is an idiomatical expression for *take courage*.

JOHNSON.

The old lady first questions Anne Bullen about being a *queen*,
which she declares her aversion to; she then proposes the title of
a *dutchess*, and asks her if she thinks herself equal to the task of
sustaining it; but as she still declines the offer of greatness;

Pluck off a little,
says she, i. e. let us descend still lower, and more upon a level
with your own quality; and then adds:

I would not be a young count in your way,
which is still an inferior degree of honour to any yet spoken of.

STEEVENS.

I would

I would not be a young count in your way,
For more than blushing comes to : if your back
Cannot vouchsafe this burden, 'tis too weak
Ever to get a boy.

Anne. How you do talk !

I swear again, I would not be a queen
For all the world.

Old L. In faith, for little England
‘ You’d venture an emballing : I myself
Would for Carnarvonshire, although there ‘long’d
No more to the crown but that. Lo, who comes here?

Enter the Lord Chamberlain.

Cham. Good morrow, ladies. What were’t worth,
to know

The secret of your conference ?

Anne. My good lord,

Not your demand ; it values not your asking :
Our mistress’ sorrows we were pitying.

Cham. It was a gentle business, and becoming
The action of good women : there is hope,
All will be well.

Anne. Now I pray God, amen !

Cham. You bear a gentle mind, and heavenly
blessings

Follow such creatures. That you may, fair lady,
Perceive I speak sincerely, and high note’s
Ta’en of your many virtues, the king’s majesty
Commends his good opinion to you, and
Does purpose honour to you no less flowing
Than marchioness of Pembroke ; to which title
A thousand pounds a year, annual support,
Out of his grace he adds.

Anne. I do not know,

‘ You’d venture an emballing :—] You would venture to be
distinguished by the *ball*, the ensign of royalty. JOHNSON.

Dr. Johnson’s explanation cannot be right, because a *queen-
consort*, such as *Anne Bullen* was, is not distinguished by the *ball*,
the ensign of royalty, nor has the poet expressed that she was so
distinguished. TOLLET.

What

What kind of my obedience I should tender;
 7 More than my all is nothing : nor my prayers
 Are not words duly hallow'd, nor my wishes
 More worth than empty vanities ; yet prayers, and
 wishes,

Are all I can return. 'Beseech your lordship,
 Vouchsafe to speak my thanks, and my obedience,
 As from a blushing handmaid, to his highness ;
 Whose health, and royalty, I pray for.

Cham. Lady,

8 I shall not fail to approve the fair conceit,
 The king hath of you.—I have perus'd her well 9 ;
 Beauty and honour in her are so mingled, [*Aside.*
 That they have caught the king : And who knows
 yet,

But from this lady may proceed a ' gem,
 To lighten all this isle ?—I'll to the king,
 And say, I spoke with you.

7 *More than my all, is nothing :—*] No figure can free this
 expression from nonsense. In spite of the exactness of measure,
 we should read :

More than my all, which is nothing.

i. e. which all is nothing. *WARBURTON.*

It is not nonsense, but only a hyperbole. Not only my *all* is
nothing, but if my all were more than it is, it were still nothing.

JOHNSON.

8 *I shall not fail &c.*] I shall not omit to strengthen by my
 commendation, the opinion which the king has formed.

JOHNSON.

9 —*I have perus'd her well ;*] From the many artful strokes of
 address the poet has thrown in upon queen *Elizabeth* and her
 mother, it should seem, that this play was written and performed
 in his royal mistress's time : if so, some lines were added by him
 in the last scene, after the accession of her successor, king *James*.

THEOBALD.

1 ————— a gem

To lighten all this isle ? —————]

Perhaps alluding to the *carbuncle*, a gem supposed to have intrinsic
 light, and to shine in the dark ; any other gem may reflect light,
 but cannot give it. *JOHNSON.*

So, in *Titus Andronicus* :

“ A precious ring that *lightens* all the hole.” *STEEVENS.*

Anne.

Anne. My honour'd lord. [*Exit Lord Chamberlain.*]

Old L. Why, this it is; fee, fee!

I have been begging sixteen years in court,
(Am yet a courtier beggarly) nor could
Come pat betwixt too early and too late,
For any suit of pounds: and you, O fate!)
A very fresh fish here, (fye, fye upon
This compell'd fortune!) have your mouth fill'd up,
Before you open it.

Anne. This is strange to me.

Old L. How tastes it? is it bitter? ² forty pence, no.
There was a lady once, ('tis an old story)
That would not be a queen, that would she not,

² ——— *is it bitter? forty pence no.*] Mr. Roderick, in his
appendix to Mr. Edwards's book, proposes to read:

——— *for two-pence.*

The old reading may, however, stand. *Forty pence* was in those
days the proverbial expression of a small wager, or a small sum.
Money was then reckoned by *pounds, marks, and nobles*. *Forty
pence* is half a noble, or the sixth part of a pound. *Forty pence*,
or three and four pence, still remains in many offices the legal
and established fee.

So, in *K. Rich. II.* act V. sc. v:

"The cheapest of us is *ten groats* too dear."

Again, in *All's Well that Ends Well*, act II: the clown says, *As
fit as ten groats for the hand of an attorney.*

Again, in *The Wild Goose Chase* of Beaumont and Fletcher:

"——— Now could I spend my *forty pence*,

"With all my heart."

Again, in Green's *Groundwork of Coneycatching*:

"——— wagers laying &c. *forty pence* gaged against a match
of wrestling."

Again, in *Histrionastix, or the Player Whipt*, 1610. This sum
is the fee of some players:

"Give them *forty pence*, and let them go."

Again, in *The longer thou Livest, the more Fool thou art*, 1570:

"I dare wage with any man *forty pence*."

Again, in the old Enterlude of the *Repentance of Mary Magdalene*,
1567:

"To see her fashion I would bestow my *forty pence*."

Again, in the *Storje of King Davius*, 1565, an interlude:

"Nay, that I will not for *fourty pence*." STEEVENS.

For all the mud in Ægypt³ :—Have you heard it ?

Anne. Come, you are pleasant.

Old L. With your theme, I could
O'er-mount the lark. The marchioness of Pembroke!
A thousand pounds a year ! for pure respect ;
No other obligation : By my life,
That promises more thousands : Honour's train
Is longer than his fore-skirt. By this time,
I know, your back will bear a dutchess ;—Say,
Are you not stronger than you were ?

Anne. Good lady,
Make yourself mirth with your particular fancy,
And leave me out on't. 'Would I had no being,
If this salute my blood a jot ; it faints me,
To think what follows.

The queen is comfortless, and we forgetful
In our long absence : Pray, do not deliver
What here you have heard, to her.

Old L. What do you think me ? [*Exeunt.*

SCENE IV.

A Hall in Black-Fryars.

*Trumpets, ⁴ fennet, and cornets. Enter two Vergers,
with short silver wands ; next them, two Scribes, in
the*

³ *For all the mud in Egypt :*] The fertility of Egypt is derived from the mud and slime of the Nile. STEEVENS.

⁴ *fennet,*] I know not the meaning of this word, which is in all the editions, except that of Hanmer, who, not understanding it, has left it out. JOHNSON.

Dr. Burney (whose *General History of Music* has been so highly and deservedly applauded) undertook to trace the etymology, and discover the certain meaning of this term, but without success. The following conjecture of his, should not, however, be withheld from the public.

Senné.

the habits of doctors ; after them, the Archbishop of Canterbury alone ; after him, the Bishops of Lincoln, Ely, Rochester, and saint Asaph ; next them, with some small distance, follows a Gentleman bearing the purse, with the great seal, and a cardinal's hat ; then two Priests, bearing each a silver cross ; then a Gentleman-usher bare-headed, accompanied with a Serjeant at arms, bearing a silver mace ; then two Gentlemen, bearing two great silver pillars ; after them, side by side, the two Cardinals ; two Noblemen with the sword and

Senné or *sennie* de l'Allemand *sen* qui signifie assemblée. Dict. de vieux Langage :

“ *Senne* assemblée a son de cloche.” *Menage*.

Perhaps, therefore, says he, *sennet* may mean a flourish for the purpose of assembling chiefs, or apprizing the people of their approach. I have likewise been informed, (as is elsewhere noted) that *seneste* is the name of an antiquated French tune. See *Julius Caesar*, act I. sc ii. STEEVENS.

In the second part of *Marston's Antonio* :

“ Cornets found a *cynet*.” FARMER.

pillars ;] Pillars were some of the ensigns of dignity carried before cardinals. Sir Thomas More, when he was speaker to the commons, advised them to admit Wolsey into the house with his maces and his pillars. *More's Life of Sir T. More*. JOHNSON.

Skelton, in his *Satire* against cardinal Wolsey, has these lines :

“ With worldly pompe incredible,
 “ Before him rydeth two prestes stronge ;
 “ And they bear two crosses right longe,
 “ Gapynge in every man's face :
 “ After them folowe two laye men secular,
 “ And eache of theym holdyn a pillar,
 “ In their hondes steade of a mace.” STEEVENS.

—two great silver pillars.] At the end of Fiddes's *Life of Cardinal Wolsey*, is a curious letter of Mr. Anstis's on the subject of the two silver pillars usually borne before Cardinal Wolsey. This remarkable piece of pageantry did not escape the notice of Shakespeare. PERCY.

Wolsey had two great crosses of silver, the one of his archbishoprick, the other of his legacy, borne before whithersoever he went or rode, by two of the tallest priests that he could get within the realm. This is from Vol. III. p. 920 of Holinshed, and it seems from p. 837, that one of the pillars was a token of a cardinal, and perhaps he bore the other pillar as an archbishop.

TOLLET.

mace.

mace. The King takes place under the cloth of state; the two Cardinals sit under him, as judges. The Queen takes place, some distance from the King. The Bishops place themselves on each side the court, in manner of a consistory; below them, the Scribes. The Lords sit next the Bishops. The rest of the attendants stand in convenient order about the stage.

Wol. Whilst our commission from Rome is read,
Let silence be commanded.

King. What's the need?
It hath already publickly been read,
And on all sides the authority allow'd;
You may then spare that time.

Wol. Be't so:—Proceed.

Scribe. Say, Henry king of England, come into
the court.

Crier. Henry king of England, &c.

King. Here.

Scribe. Say, Katharine queen of England, come
Into the court.

Crier. Katharine queen of England, &c.

[*The Queen makes no answer, rises out of her chair, goes about the court, comes to the King, and kneels at his feet; then speaks.*]

Queen. Sir, I desire you, do me right and justice⁶;
And to bestow your pity on me: for
I am a most poor woman, and a stranger,
Born out of your dominions; having here
No judge indifferent, nor no more assurance
Of equal friendship and proceeding. Alas, sir,
In what have I offended you? what cause
Hath my behaviour given to your displeasure,
That thus you should proceed to put me off,

⁶ *Sir, I desire you do me right and justice; &c.*] This speech of the queen, and the king's reply, are taken from Holinshed with the most trifling variations. STEEVENS.

And take your good grace from me? Heaven witness,
 I have been to you a true and humble wife,
 At all times to your will conformable :
 Ever in fear to kindle your dislike,
 Yea, subject to your countenance ; glad, or sorry,
 As I saw it inclin'd. When was the hour,
 I ever contradicted your desire,
 Or made it not mine too ? Or which of your friends
 Have I not strove to love, although I knew
 He were mine enemy ? what friend of mine,
 That had to him deriv'd your anger, did I
 Continue in my liking ? ⁸ nay, gave not notice
 He was from thence discharg'd ? Sir, call to mind,
 That I have been your wife, in this obedience,
 Upward of twenty years, and have been blest
 With many children by you : If, in the course
 And process of this time, you can report,
 And prove it too, against mine honour aught,
 My bond to wedlock, or my love and duty
 Against your sacred person, in God's name,
 Turn me away ; and let the foul'st contempt
 Shut door upon me, and so give me up
 To the sharpest kind of justice. Please you, sir,
 The king, your father, was reputed for
 A prince most prudent, of an excellent
 And unmatch'd wit and judgment : Ferdinand,
 My father, king of Spain, was reckon'd one
 The wisest prince, that there had reign'd by many
 A year before : It is not to be question'd
 That they had gather'd a wise council to them
 Of every realm, that did debate this business,

⁷ ——— nay, gave not notice] In former editions :

——— nay, gave notice,

which, though the author's common liberties of speech might justify, yet I cannot but think that *not* was dropped before *notice*, having the same letters, and have therefore followed sir Thomas Hanmer's correction. JOHNSON.

Who deem'd our marriage lawful : Wherefore I
humbly

Befeech you, fir, to spare me, 'till I may
Be by my friends in Spain advis'd ; whose counsel
I will implore : If not ; i'the name of God,
Your pleasure be fulfill'd !

Wol. You have here, lady,
(And of your choice) these reverend fathers ; men
Of singular integrity and learning,
Yea, the elect of the land, who are assembled
To plead your cause : It shall be therefore bootless,
That longer you defer the court ; as well
For your own quiet, as to rectify
What is unsettled in the king.

Cam. His grace
Hath spoken well, and justly : Therefore, madam,
It's fit this royal session do proceed ;
And that, without delay, their arguments
Be now produc'd, and heard.

Queen. Lord cardinal, —
To you I speak.

Wol. Your pleasure, madam ?

Queen. Sir,
I am about to weep³ ; but, thinking that
We are a queen, (or long have dream'd so) certain,
The daughter of a king, my drops of tears
I'll turn to sparks of fire.

Wol. Be patient yet.

Queen. I will, when you are humble ; nay, before,
Or God will punish me. I do believe,
Induc'd by potent circumstances, that

³ *I am about to weep ; &c.*] Shakespeare has given almost a similar sentiment to *Hermione* in the *Winter's Tale*, on an almost similar occasion :

“ I am not prone to weeping, as our sex

“ Commonly are &c.—but I have

“ That honourable grief lodg'd here, which burns

“ Worse than tears drown ; &c.” STEEVENS.

You are mine enemy ; ⁹ and make my challenge,
 You shall not be my judge : for it is you
 Have blown this coal betwixt my lord and me,—
 Which God's dew quench !—Therefore, I say again,
 I utterly abhor, yea, from my soul
 Refuse you for my judge ; whom, yet once more,
 I hold my most malicious foe, and think not
 At all a friend to truth.

Wol. I do profess,
 You speak not like yourself ; who ever yet
 Have stood to charity, and display'd the effects
 Of disposition gentle, and of wisdom
 O'er-topping woman's power. Madam, you do me
 wrong :
 I have no spleen against you ; nor injustice
 For you, or any : how far I have proceeded,
 Or how far further shall, is warranted
 By a commission from the consistory,
 Yea, the whole consistory of Rome. You charge me,
 That I have blown this coal : I do deny it :
 The king is present ; If it be known to him,
 That I gainsay ¹ my deed, how may he wound,
 And worthily, my falsehood ? yea, as much
 As you have done my truth. If he know
 That I am free of your report, he knows,
 I am not of your wrong. Therefore in him
 It lies, to cure me : and the cure is, to

⁹ ——— and make my challenge,

You shall not be my judge :]

Challenge is here a *verbum juris*, a law term. The criminal, when
 he refuses a juryman, says, *I challenge him*. I think there is a
 slight error which destroys the connection, and would read :

Induc'd by potent circumstances, that

You are mine enemy, I make my challenge.

—*You shall not be my judge.* JOHNSON.

¹ ——— *gainsay*] i. e. deny. So, in lord Surrey's translation
 of the fourth book of the *Æneid* :

“ I hold thee not, nor yet *gainsay* thy words.”

STEEVENS.

Remove these thoughts from you : The which before
His highness shall speak in, I do beseech
You, gracious madam, to unthink your speaking,
And to say so no more.

Queen. My lord, my lord,
I am a simple woman, much too weak
To oppose your cunning. You are meek, and humble-mouth'd ;

² You sign your place and calling, in full seeming,
With meekness and humility : but your heart
Is cramm'd with arrogancy, spleen, and pride.
You have, by fortune, and his highness' favours,
Gone slightly o'er low steps ; and now are mounted ³,
Where powers are your retainers : and your words,
Domesticks to you, serve your will, as't please
Yourself pronounce their office. I must tell you,
You tender more your person's honour, than

² *You sign your place and calling,———*] *Sign*, for answer.
WARBURTON.

I think, to *sign*, must here be to *show*, to *denote*. By your outward meekness and humility, you *show* that you are of an holy order, but, &c. JOHNSON.

³ *———now are mounted,*

*Where powers are your retainers ; and your words,
Domesticks to you, serve your will,———*]

You have now got *power* at your beck, following in your retinue : and *words* therefore are degraded to the servile state of performing any office which you shall give them. In humbler and more common terms ; *Having now got power, you do not regard your word.* JOHNSON.

I believe we should read :

“ Where powers are your retainers, and your *wards*,

“ Domesticks to you, &c.”

The Queen rises naturally in her description. She paints the powers of government depending upon Wolsey under three images ; as his *retainers*, his *wards*, his *domestic servants*.

TYRWHITT.

So, in *Storer's Life and Death of Thomas Wolsey, Cardinal*, a poem, 1599 :

“ I must have notice where their *wards* must dwell ;

“ I car'd not for the gentry, for I had

“ Yong nobles of the land, &c.” STEEVENS.

Your

Your high profession spiritual : That again
I do refuse you for my judge ; and here,
Before you all, appeal unto the pope,
To bring my whole cause 'fore his holiness,
And to be judg'd by him.

[*She curtsies to the King, and offers to depart.*

Cam. The queen is obstinate,
Stubborn to justice, apt to accuse it, and
Disdainful to be try'd by it ; 'tis not well.
She's going away.

King. Call her again.

Crier. Katharine, queen of England, come into the
court.

Usher. Madam, you are call'd back.

Queen. What need you note it ? pray you, keep
your way :

When you are call'd, return.—Now the Lord help,
They vex me past my patience !—pray you, pass on :
I will not tarry ; no, nor ever more,
Upon this business, my appearance make
In any of their courts.

[*Exeunt Queen, and her Attendants.*

King. Go thy ways, Kate :

That man i'the world, who shall report he has
A better wife, let him in nought be trusted,
For speaking false in that : Thou art, alone,
(If thy rare qualities, sweet gentleness,
Thy meekness saint-like, wife-like government,—
Obeying in commanding,—and thy parts
Sovereign and pious else, * could speak thee out)
The queen of earthly queens :—She is noble born ;
And, like her true nobility, she has
Carried herself towards me.

Wol. Most gracious sir,
In humblest manner I require your highness,

* ——— could speak thee out)] If thy several qualities had tongues
to speak thy praise. JOHNSON.

That it shall please you to declare, in hearing
Of all these ears, (for where I am robb'd and bound,
There must I be unloos'd ; ' although not there
At once and fully satisfy'd) whether ever I
Did broach this business to your highness ; or
Lay'd any scruple in your way, which might
Induce you to the question on't ? or ever
Have to you,—but with thanks to God for such
A royal lady,—spake one the least word, that might
Be to the prejudice of her present state,
Or touch of her good person ?

King. My lord cardinal,
I do excuse you ; yea, upon mine honour,
I free you from't. You are not to be taught
That you have many enemies, that know not
Why they are so, but, like to village curs,
Bark when their fellows do : by some of these
The queen is put in anger. You are excus'd :
But will you be more justify'd ? you ever
Have wish'd the sleeping of this business ; never
Desir'd it to be stirr'd ; but oft have hindred, oft,
The passages made toward it :—⁶ on my honour,
I speak

——— *although not there.*

At once, *and fully satisfied*) ———]

What he aims at is this ; where I am robbed and bound, there must I be unloosed, though the injurers be not there to make me satisfaction ; as much as to say, I owe so much to my own innocence, as to clear up my character, though I do not expect my wrongers will do me justice. It seems then that Shakespeare wrote :

Atten'd, and fully satisfied. ——— WARBURTON.

I do not see what is gained by this alteration. The sense, which is encumbered with words in either reading, is no more than this. I must be *loosed*, though when so *loosed*, I shall not be *satisfied* fully and *at once* ; that is, I shall not be *immediately* satisfied. JOHNSON.

⁶ ——— *on my honour,*

I speak my good lord cardinal to this point,]

The king, having first addressed to Wolsey, breaks off ; and declares upon his honour to the whole court, that he speaks the car-
dinal's

I speak my good lord cardinal to this point,
 And thus far clear him. Now, what mov'd me to't,—
 I will be bold with time, and your attention :—
 Then mark the inducement. Thus it came ;—give
 heed to't :—

My conscience first receiv'd a tenderness,
 ' Scruple, and prick, on certain speeches utter'd
 By the bishop of Bayonne, then French ambassador ;
 Who had been hither sent on the debating
 A marriage, 'twixt the duke of Orleans and
 Our daughter Mary : I'the progress of this business,
 Ere a determinate resolution, he
 (I mean, the bishop) did require a respite ;
 Wherein he might the king his lord advertise
 Whether our daughter were legitimate,
 Respecting this our marriage with the dowager,
 Sometime our brother's wife. ' This respite shook
 The bosom of my conscience, enter'd me,
 Yea, with a splitting power, and made to tremble
 The region of my breast ; which forc'd such way,
 That many maz'd considerings did throng,

dinal's sentiments upon the point in question ; and clears him
 from any attempt, or wish, to stir that business. THEOBALD.

' Scruple, and prick,——] Prick, of conscience was the term
 in confession. JOHNSON.

The expression is from Holinshed, where the king says : " The
 special cause that moved me unto this matter was a certaine scrū-
 pulositie that *pricked* my conscience &c." See *Holinshed*, p. 907.
 STEEVENS.

* ———— *This respite shook*

The bosom of my conscience,———]

Though this reading be sense, yet, I verily believe, the poet
 wrote :

The bottom of my conscience,———

Shakespeare, in all his historical plays, was a most diligent ob-
 server of Holinshed's *Chronicle*. Now Holinshed, in the speech
 which he has given to king Henry upon this subject, makes him
 deliver himself thus : " Which words, once conceived within the
 secret *bottom* of my conscience, ingendred such a scrupulous doubt,
 that my conscience was incontinently accombred, vexed, and dis-
 quieted." *Vid. Life of Henry VIII.* p. 907. THEOBALD.

And press'd in with this caution. First, methought,
 I stood not in the smile of heaven ; who had
 Commanded nature, that my lady's womb,
 If it conceiv'd a male child by me, should
 Do no more offices of life to't, than
 The grave does to the dead : for her male-issure
 Or died where they were made, or shortly after
 This world had air'd them : Hence I took a thought,
 This was a judgment on me ; that my kingdom,
 Well worthy the best heir o'the world, should not
 Be gladdened in't by me : Then follows, that
 I weigh'd the danger which my realms stood in
 By this my issue's fail ; and that gave to me
 Many a groaning throe. Thus ' hulling in
 The wild sea of my conscience, I did steer
 Toward this remedy, whereupon we are
 Now present here together ; that's to say,
 I meant to rectify my conscience,—which
 I then did feel full sick, and yet not well,—
 By all the reverend fathers of the land,
 And doctors learn'd.—First, I began in private
 With you, my lord of Lincoln ; you remember
 How under my oppression I did reek,
 When I first mov'd you.

Lin. Very well, my liege.

King. I have spoke long ; be pleas'd yourself to say
 How far you satisfy'd me.

Lin. So please your highness,
 The question did at first so stagger me,—

? ——— hulling in
The wild sea ———.]

That is, floating without guidance ; toss'd here and there.

JOHNSON.

The phrase belongs to navigation. A ship is said to *hull*, when she is dismasted, and only her *hull*, or *bulk*, is left at the direction and mercy of the waves.

So, in the *Alarum for London*, 1602 :

“ And they lye *hulling up and down* the stream.”

STEEVENS.

Bear-

Bearing a state of mighty moment in't,
 And consequence of dread,—that I committed
 The daring'st counsel which I had, to doubt;
 And did entreat your highness to this course,
 Which you are running here.

King. ' I then mov'd you,
 My lord of Canterbury; and got your leave
 To make this present summons:—Unsolicited
 I left no reverend person in this court;
 But by particular consent proceeded,
 Under your hands and seals. Therefore, go on;
 For no dislike i'the world against the person
 Of our good queen, but the sharp thorny points
 Of my alledged reasons, drive this forward:
 Prove but our marriage lawful, by my life,
 And kingly dignity, we are contented
 To wear our mortal state to come, with her,
 Katharine our queen, before the primest creature
 * That's paragon'd o'the world.

' *I then mov'd you,*] I have rescued the text from Holinshed,—
 " I moved it in confession to you, my lord of Lincoln, then
 ghostly father. And forasmuch as then you yourself were in
 some doubt, you moved me to ask the counsel of all these my
 lords. Whereupon I *moved* you, my lord of Canterbury, first
 to have your *licence*, in as much as you were metropolitan, to put
 this matter in question; and *so I did of all you*, my lords." Ho-
 linshed's *Life of Henry VIII.* p. 908. THEOBALD.

² *That's paragon'd i' th' world.*] Hammer reads, I think, better:

— *The primest creature*

That's paragon o' th' world. JOHNSON.

So, in the *Two Gentlemen of Verona*:

No; but she is an earthly *paragon*.

Again, in another of our author's plays:

— an angel! or, if not,

An earthly *paragon*.

To *paragon*, however, is a verb used by Shakespeare both in
Antony and Cleopatra, and *Othello*:

If thou with Cæsar *paragon* again

My man of men

— a maid

That *paragons* description and wild fame. STEEVENS.

Cam. So please your highness,
 The queen being absent, 'tis a needful fitness
 That we adjourn this court to further day :
 Mean while must be an earnest motion
 Made to the queen, to call back her appeal
 She intends unto his holiness. [*They rise to depart* ³.

King. I may perceive,
 These cardinals trifle with me : I abhor
 This dilatory sloth, and tricks of Rome.
 My learn'd and well beloved servant, Cranmer,
 Pr'ythee, return ! with thy approach, I know,
 My comfort comes along. Break up the court :
 I say, set on. [*Exeunt, in manner as they enter'd.*

A C T III. S C E N E I.

The Queen's Apartments.

The Queen and her Women, as at work.

Queen. Take thy lute, wench : my soul grows sad
 with troubles ;
 Sing, and disperse them, if thou canst : leave work-
 ing.

³ [*They rise to depart.*] Here the modern editors add : *The king speaks to Cranmer.*] This marginal direction is not found in the old folio, and was wrongly introduced by some subsequent editor. Cranmer was now absent from court on an embassy, as appears from the last scene of this act, where Cromwell informs Wolsey, that he is return'd and install'd archbishop of Canterbury :

My learn'd and well-beloved servant, Cranmer,

Pr'ythee, return !——

is no more than an apostrophe to the absent bishop of that name.

RIDLEY.

SONG,

S O N G.

Orpheus with his lute made trees,
 And the mountain-tops, that freeze,
 Bow themselves, when he did sing :
 To his musick, plants, and flowers,
 Ever sprung ; as sun, and showers,
 There had made a lasting spring.

Every thing that heard him play,
 Even the billows of the sea,
 Hung their heads, and then lay by.
 In sweet musick is such art ;
 Killing care, and grief of heart,
 Fall asleep, or, hearing, die.

Enter a Gentleman.

Queen. How now ?

Gent. An't please your grace, the two great cardinals

Wait in the presence⁴.

Queen. Would they speak with me ?

Gent. They will'd me say so, madam.

Queen. Pray their graces

To come near. [*Exit. Gent.*] What can be their business

With me, a poor weak woman, fallen from favour ?
 I do not like their coming, now I think on't.

They should be good men ; their affairs are righteous :

But

⁴ *Wait in the presence.] i. e. in the presence-chamber.*

STEEVENS.

⁵ *They should be good men ; their affairs are righteous :] Affairs for professions ; and then the sense is clear and pertinent. The proposition is they are priests. The illation, therefore they are good men ; for being understood : but if affairs be interpreted in its common signification, the sentence is absurd. WARBURTON.*
 The

But, All hoods make not monks⁶.

Enter Wolsey, and Campeius.

Wol. Peace to your highness !

Queen. Your graces find me here part of a housewife ;

I would be all, against the worst may happen.

What are your pleasures with me, reverend lords ?

Wol. May it please you, noble madam, to withdraw Into your private chamber, we shall give you The full cause of our coming.

Queen. Speak it here ;

There's nothing I have done yet, o' my conscience, Deserves a corner : 'Would, all other women

Could speak this with as free a soul as I do !

My lords, I care not, (so much I am happy Above a number) if my actions

Were try'd by every tongue, every eye saw 'em,

' Envy and base opinion set against 'em,

I know my life so even : If your business

² Seek me out⁹, and that way I am wise in,

Out with it boldly ; Truth loves open dealing.

The sentence has no great difficulty : *Affairs* means not their present errand, but the *business* of their calling. JOHNSON.

⁶ — *All hoods make not monks.*] Cucullus not facit monachum,

STEEVENS.

⁷ *Envy and base opinion set against 'em,*] I would be glad that my conduct were in some publick trial confronted with mine enemies, that envy and corrupt judgment might try their utmost power against me. JOHNSON.

² *Seek me out,*] I believe that a word has dropt out here, and that we should read—*if your business seek me, speak out, and that way I am wise in.* i.e. in the way that I can understand.

TYRWHITT,

⁹ ——— *and that way I am wise in,*] That is, if you come to examine the title by which I am the king's wife ; or, if you come to know how I have behaved as a wife. The meaning, whatever it be, is so coarsely and unskilfully expressed, that the latter editors have liked nonsense better, and contrarily to the ancient and only copy, have published :

And that way I am wise in. JOHNSON.

Wol.

Wol. Tanta est erga te mentis integritas, regina serenissima,—

Queen. O, good my lord, no Latin';
I am not such a truant since my coming,
As not to know the language I have liv'd in :
A strange tongue makes my cause more strange, suspicious;

Pray, speak in English : here are some will thank you,
If you speak truth, for their poor mistrefs' sake ;
Believe me, she has had much wrong : Lord cardinal,
The willing'st sin I ever yet committed,
May be absolv'd in English.

Wol. Noble lady,
I am sorry, my integrity should breed,
(And service to his majesty and you)
So deep suspicion; where all faith was meant.
We come not by the way of accusation,
To taint that honour every good tongue blesses ;
Nor to betray you any way to sorrow ;
You have too much, good lady : but to know
How you stand minded in the weighty difference
Between the king and you ; and to deliver,
Like free and honest men, our just opinions,
And comforts to your cause.

Cam. Most honour'd madam,
My lord of York,—out of his noble nature,
Zeal and obedience he still bore your grace ;
Forgetting, like a good man, your late censure
Both of his truth and him, (which was too far)—
Offers, as I do, in a sign of peace,
His service, and his counsel.—

Queen. To betray me. [*Aside.*]
My lords, I thank you both for your good wills,

¹ O, good my lord, no Latin.] So, Holinshed p. 908 :

“ Then began the cardinall to speake to her in Latine. Naie good my lord (quoth she) speake to me in English.”

Ye speak like honest men, (pray God, ye prove so!)
 But how to make ye suddenly an answer,
 In such a point of weight, so near mine honour,
 (More near my life, I fear) with my weak wit,
 And to such men of gravity and learning,
 In truth, I know not. I was set at work
 Among my maids; full little, God knows, looking
 Either for such men, or such business.
 For her sake that I have been ², (for I feel
 The last fit of my greatness) good your graces,
 Let me have time, and counsel, for my cause;
 Alas! I am a woman, friendless, hopeless.

Wol. Madam, you wrong the king's love with these
 fears;

Your hopes and friends are infinite.

Queen. In England,

But little for my profit: Can you think, lords,
 That any Englishman dare give me counsel?
 Or be a known friend, 'gainst his highness' pleasure,
 (' Though he be grown so desperate to be honest)
 And live a subject? Nay, forsooth, my friends,
 They that must ⁴ weigh out my afflictions,
 They that my trust must grow to, live not here;
 They are, as all my other comforts, far hence,
 In mine own country, lords.

Cam. I would, your grace

² *For her sake that I have been, &c.*] For the sake of that royalty that I have heretofore possessed. MALONE.

³ (*Though he be grown so desperate to be honest*)] Do you think that any Englishman dare advise me; or, if any man should venture to advise with honesty, that he could live? JOHNSON.

⁴ ——— weigh out my afflictions,] This phrase is obscure. To weigh out, is, in modern language, to deliver by weight; but this sense cannot be here admitted. To weigh is likewise to deliberate upon, to consider with due attention. This may, perhaps, be meant. Or the phrase, to weigh out, may signify to counter-balance, to counteract with equal force. JOHNSON.

To weigh out is the same as to outweigh. In *Macbeth*, Shakespeare has overcome for come over. STEEVENS.

Would leave your griefs, and take my counsel.

Queen. How, sir?

Cam. Put your main cause into the king's protection;

He's loving, and most gracious: 'twill be much
Both for your honour better, and your cause;
For, if the trial of the law o'ertake you,
You'll part away disgrac'd.

Wol. He tells you rightly.

Queen. Ye tell me what ye wish for both, my ruin:
Is this your christian counsel? out upon ye!
Heaven is above all yet; there sits a judge,
That no king can corrupt.

Cam. Your rage mistakes us,

Queen. 'The more shame for ye; holy men I
thought ye,

Upon my soul, two reverend cardinal virtues;
But cardinal sins, and hollow hearts, I fear ye:
Mend 'em for shame, my lords. Is this your comfort?
The cordial that ye bring a wretched lady?
A woman lost among ye, laugh'd at, scorn'd?
I will not wish ye half my miseries,
I have more charity: But say, I warn'd ye;
Take heed, for heaven's sake, take heed, lest at once
The burden of my sorrows fall upon ye.

Wol. Madam, this is a mere distraction;
You turn the good we offer into envy.

Queen. Ye turn me into nothing: Woe upon ye,
And all such false professors! Would ye have me
(If you have any justice, any pity;
If you be any thing but churchmen's habits)
Put my sick cause into his hands that hates me?
Alas! he has banish'd me his bed already;
His love, too long ago: I am old, my lords,

⁶ *The more shame for ye; —*] If I mistake you, it is by your fault, not mine; for I thought you good. The distress of Katharine might have kept her from the quibble to which she is irresistibly tempted by the word *cardinal*. JOHNSON.

And

And all the fellowship I hold now with him
Is only my obedience. What can happen
To me, above this wretchedness? all your studies
Make me a curse like this.

Cam. You fears are worse.

Queen. Have I liv'd thus long,—let me speak myself,
Since virtue finds no friends,—a wife, a true one?
A woman, (I dare say, without vain-glory)
Never yet branded with suspicion?
Have I with all my full affections
Still met the king? lov'd him next heaven? obey'd
him?

Been, out of fondness, ⁷ superstitious to him?
Almost forgot my prayers to content him?
And am I thus rewarded? 'tis not well, lords.
Bring me a constant woman to her husband,
One that ne'er dream'd a joy beyond his pleasure;
And to that woman, when she has done most,
Yet will I add an honour,—a great patience.

Wol. Madam, you wander from the good we aim at.

Queen. My lord, I dare not make myself so guilty,
To give up willingly that noble title
Your master wed me to: nothing but death
Shall e'er divorce my dignities.

Wol. Pray, hear me.

Queen. 'Would I had never trod this English earth,
Or felt the flatteries that grow upon it!
Ye have angels' faces, but heaven knows your hearts.
What

⁷ ——— *superstitious to him?*] That is, served him with superstitious attention; done more than was required. JOHNSON.

⁸ *Ye have angels' faces,*———] She may perhaps allude to the old jingle of *Angli* and *Angeli*. JOHNSON.

I find this jingle in the *Arrangement of Paris*, 1584. The goddesses refer the dispute about the golden apple to the decision of *Diana*, who setting aside their respective claims, awards it to queen *Elizabeth*; and adds:

“ Her people are cyleped *angeli*,

“ Or if I miss a letter, is the most.”

In this pastoral, as it is called, the queen herself may be almost

What will become of me now, wretched lady ?
I am the most unhappy woman living.—
Alas ! poor wenches, where are now your fortunes ?

[To her women.

Shipwreck'd upon a kingdom, where no pity,
No friends, no hope ; no kindred weep for me,
Almost, no grave allow'd me :—Like the lilly,
That once was mistress of the field, and flourish'd,
I'll hang my head, and perish.

Wol. If your grace

Could but be brought to know, our ends are honest,
You'd feel more comfort : why should we, good lady,
Upon what cause, wrong you ? alas ! our places,
The way of our profession is against it ;
We are to cure such sorrows, not to sow 'em.
For goodness' sake, consider what you do ;
How you may hurt yourself, ay, utterly
Grow from the king's acquaintance, by this carriage.
The hearts of princes kiss obedience,
So much they love it ; but, to stubborn spirits,
They swell, and grow as terrible as storms.
I know, you have a gentle, noble temper,
A soul as even as a calm ; Pray, think us
Those we profess, peace-makers, friends, and ser-
vants.

Cam. Madam, you'll find it so. You wrong your
virtues

With these weak women's fears. A noble spirit,
As yours was put into you, ever casts

most said to have been a performer, for at the conclusion of it, *Diana* gives the golden apple into her hands, and the Fates deposit their insignia at her feet. It was presented before her majesty by the children of her chapel.

It appears from the following passage in *The Spanish Masquerado*, by Greene, 1:8, that this quibble was originally the quibble of a saint.—*England*, a little island, where, as *saint Augustin* saith, there be people with *angels faces*, so the inhabitants have the courage and hearts of lions." STEEVENS.

Such

Such doubts, as false coin, from it. The king loves
you ;

Beware, you lose it not : For us, if you please
To trust us in your business, we are ready
To use our utmost studies in your service.

Queen. Do what ye will, my lords : And, pray,
forgive me,

If I have us'd myself unmannerly ;
You know, I am a woman, lacking wit
To make a seemly answer to such persons.
Pray, do my service to his majesty :
He has my heart yet ; and shall have my prayers,
While I shall have my life. Come, reverend fathers,
Bestow your counsels on me : she now begs,
That little thought, when she set footing here,
She should have bought her dignities so dear.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.

Antichamber to the King's Apartment.

*Enter Duke of Norfolk, Duke of Suffolk, the Earl of
Surrey, and the Lord Chamberlain.*

Nor. If you will now unite in your complaints,
And ⁹ force them with a constancy, the cardinal
Cannot stand under them : If you omit
The offer of this time, I cannot promise,
But that you shall sustain more new disgraces,
With these you bear already.

Sur. I am joyful
To meet the least occasion, that may give me
Remembrance of my father-in-law, the duke,
To be reveng'd on him.

Suf. Which of the peers

* *And force them——*] *Force is enforce, urge.* JOHNSON.

Have

Have uncontentn'd gone by him, ' or at least
Strangely neglected? when did he regard?²
The stamp of nobleness in any person,
Out of himself?

Cham. My lords, you speak your pleasures :
What he deserves of you and me, I know ;
What we can do to him, (though now the time
Gives way to us) I much fear. If you cannot
Bar his access to the king, never attempt
Any thing on him ; for he hath a witchcraft
Over the king in his tongue.

Nor. O, fear him not ;
His spell in that is out : the king hath found
Matter against him, that for ever mars
The honey of his language. No, he's settled,
Not to come off, in his displeasure.

Sur. Sir,
I should be glad to hear such news as this
Once every hour.

Nor. Believe it, this is true.

¹ ——— or at least
Strangely neglected? ———]
The plain sense requires us to read :
Stood not neglected? ———

WARBURTON.

Dr. Warburton's alteration makes a more correct sentence, but
in our authour's licentious English, the passage, as it stands,
means the same as, *which of the peers has not gone by him contemned*
or neglected? JOHNSON.

² ——— when did he regard
The stamp of nobleness in any person,
Out of himself?]

The expression is bad, and the thought false. For it supposes
Wolfey to be noble, which was not so : we should read and point :

——— when did he regard
The stamp of nobleness in any person ;
Out of himself?

i. e. when did he regard nobleness of blood in another ; having
none of his own to value himself upon? WARBURTON.

I do not think this correction proper. The meaning of the
present reading is easy. *When did he*, however careful to carry
his own dignity to the utmost height, regard any dignity of another?

JOHNSON.

In the divorce, his ³ contrary proceedings.
Are all unfolded ; wherein he appears,
As I would wish mine enemy.

Sur. How came
His practices to light ?

Suf. Most strangely.

Sur. O, how, how ?

Suf. The cardinal's letter to the pope miscarried,
And came to the eye o' the king : wherein was read,
How that the cardinal did entreat his holiness
To stay the judgment o' the divorce ; For if
It did take place, *I do*, quoth he, *perceive*,
My king is tangled in affection to
A creature of the queen's, lady Anne Bullen.

Sur. Has the king this ?

Suf. Believe it.

Sur. Will this work ?

Cham. The king in this perceives him, how he
coasts,

⁴ And hedges, his own way. But in this point
All his tricks founder, and he brings his physick
After his patient's death ; the king already
Hath married the fair lady.

Sur. 'Would he had !

Suf. May you be happy in your wish, my lord ;
For, I profess, you have it.

Sur. Now all my joy

⁵ Trace the conjunction !

Suf.

³ ——— contrary proceedings] Private practices opposite to his
public procedure. JOHNSON.

⁴ And hedges, his own way. ———] It is not said, that the
king perceives how he *obstructs* his own way ; but how *obliquely*
he pursues it : we should read therefore :

————— edges his own way. ——— WARBURTON.

To hedge, is to creep along by the hedge : not to take the di-
rect and open path, but to steal covertly through circumvolutions.

JOHNSON.

⁵ Trace the conjunction !] To trace, is to follow. JOHNSON.
So, in *Macbeth* ;

“ ——— all

Suf. My amen to't !

Nor. All men's.

Suf. There's order given for her coronation :
Marry, this is yet but young, and may be left
To some ears unrecounted.—But, my lords,
She is a gallant creature, and compleat
In mind and feature : I persuade me, from her
Will fall some blessing to this land, which shall
In it be memoriz'd ⁶.

Sur. But, will the king
Digest this letter of the cardinal's ?
The lord forbid !

Nor. Marry, Amen !

Suf. No, no ;
There be more wasps that buz about his nose,
Will make this sting the sooner. Cardinal Campeius
Is stolen away to Rome ; hath ta'en no leave ;
Has left the cause o' the king unhandled ; and
Is posted, as the agent of our cardinal,
To second all his plot. I do assure you,
The king cry'd, ha ! at this.

Cham. Now, God incense him,
And let him cry, ha, louder !

Nor. But, my lord,
When returns Cranmer ?

Suf. He is return'd, in his opinions ; which
Have satisfy'd the king for his divorce,
Together with all famous colleges
Almost in Christendom ⁷ : shortly, I believe,

His

“ ———all unfortunate souls

“ That trace him in his line.” STEEVENS.

⁶ *In it be memoriz'd.*] To memorize is to make memorable.
The word has been already used in *Macbeth*, act I. sc. ii :

STEEVENS.

⁷ *He is return'd in his opinions ; which
Have satisfy'd the king for his divorce,
Together with all famous colleges,
Almost in Christendom : ———]*

His second marriage shall be publish'd, and
 Her coronation. Katharine no more
 Shall be call'd, queen ; but princess dowager,
 And widow to prince Arthur,

Nor. This same Cranmer's
 A worthy fellow, and hath ta'en much pain
 In the king's business.

Suf. He has ; and we shall see him
 For it, an archbishop.

Nor. So I hear.

Suf. 'Tis so.

The cardinal——

Enter Wolfey, and Cromwell.

Nor. Observe, observe, he's moody.

Wol. The packet, Cromwell,
 Gave't you the king?

Crom. To his own hand, in his bed-chamber.

Wol. Look'd he o' the inside of the paper?

Crom. Presently
 He did unseal them : and the first he view'd,
 He did it with a serious mind ; a heed
 Was in his countenance : You, he bade
 Attend him here this morning.

Wol. Is he ready
 To come abroad ?

Thus the old copy. The meaning is this : *Cranmer*, says *Suffolk*,
is returned in his opinions, i. e. with the same sentiments, which he
 entertained before he went abroad, *which* (sentiments) *have*
satisfied the king, together with all the famous colleges referred
 to on the occasion.—Or, perhaps, the passage (as *Mr. Tyr-*
whitt observes) may mean—*He is return'd* in effect, having sent
his opinions, i. e. the opinions of divines, &c. collected by him.
Mr. Rowe altered these lines as follows, and all succeeding edi-
 tors have silently adopted his unnecessary change :

He is return'd with his opinions, which
Have satisfy'd the king for his divorce,
Gather'd from all the famous colleges
Almost in Christendom.—— STEEVENS.

Crom.

Crom. I think, by this he is.

Wol. Leave me a while.— [*Exit Cromwell.*]

It shall be to the dutchess of Alençon,
The French king's sister : he shall marry her.—
Anne Bullen ! No ; I'll no Anne Bullens for him :
There's more in't than fair visage.—Bullen !
No, we'll no Bullens !—Speedily I wish
To hear from Rome.—The marchioness of Pem-
broke !—

Nor. He's discontented.

Suf. May be, he hears the king
Does whet his anger to him.

Sur. Sharp enough,
Lord, for thy justice !

Wol. The late queen's gentlewoman ; a knight's
daughter,
To be her mistress' mistress ! the queen's queen !—
This candle burns not clear : 'tis I must snuff it ;
Then, out it goes.—What though I know her vir-
tuous,

And well-deserving ? yet I know her for
A spleeny Lutheran ; and not wholesome to
Our cause, that she should lie i' the bosom of
Our hard-rul'd king. Again, there is sprung up
An heretic, an arch one, Cranmer ; one
Hath crawl'd into the favour of the king,
And is his oracle.

Nor. He is vex'd at something.

Sur. I would, 'twere something that would fret the
string,
The master cord of his heart !

* *Enter the King, reading a schedule ; and Lovel.*

Suf. The king, the king.

King. What piles of wealth hath he accumulated
To

* *Enter the King, reading a schedule ;]* That the cardinal gave
the king an inventory of his own private wealth, by mistake,
S 3 and

To his own portion ! and what expence by the hour
Seems to flow from him ! How, i'the name of thrift,
Does he rake this together !—Now, my lords ;
Saw you the cardinal ?

Nor, My lord, we have
Stood here observing him : Some strange commotion
Is in his brain : he bites his lip, and starts ;
Stops on a sudden, looks upon the ground,
Then, lays his finger on his temple ; straight,

and thereby ruined himself, is a known variation from the truth of history. Shakespeare, however, has not injudiciously represented the fall of that great man, as owing to an incident which he had once improved to the destruction of another. See *Holinshed*, Vol. II. p. 796 and 797.

“ Thomas Ruthall, bishop of Durham, was, after the death of king Henry VII. one of the privy council to Henry VIII. to whom the king gave in charge to write a book of the whole estate of the kingdom, &c. Afterwards, the king commanded cardinal Wolsey to go to this bishop, and to bring the book away with him. — This bishop having written two books (the one to answer the king's command, and the other intreating of his own private affairs) did bind them both after one sort in vellum, &c. Now, when the cardinal came to demand the book due to the king, the bishop unadvisedly commanded his servant to bring him the book bound in white vellum, lying in his study, in such a place. The servant accordingly brought forth one of the books so bound, being the book intreating of the state of the bishop, &c. The cardinal having the book, went from the bishop, and after, (in his study by himself) understanding the contents thereof, he greatly rejoiced, having now occasion (which he long sought for) offered unto him, to bring the bishop into the king's disgrace.

“ Wherefore he went forthwith to the king, delivered the book into his hands, and briefly informed him of the contents thereof ; putting further into the king's head, that if at any time he were destitute of a mass of money, he should not need to seek further therefore than to the coffers of the bishop. Of all which when the bishop had intelligence, &c. he was stricken with such grief of the same, that he shortly, through extreme sorrow, ended his life at London, in the year of Christ 1523. After which, the cardinal, who had long before gaped after his bishoprick, in singular hope to attain thereunto, had now his wish in effect, &c.”

STEEVENS.

Springs out into fast gait ; then, stops again',
Strikes his breast hard ; and anon, he casts
His eye against the moon : in most strange postures
We have seen him set himself.

King. It may well be ;
There is a mutiny in his mind. This morning
Papers of state he sent me to peruse,
As I requir'd ; And, wot you, what I found
There ; on my conscience, put unwittingly ?
Forsooth, an inventory, thus importing,—
The several parcels of his plate, his treasure,
Rich stuffs, and ornaments of household ; which
I find at such proud rate, that it out-speaks
Possession of a subject.

Nor. It is heaven's will ;
Some spirit put this paper in the packet,
To bless your eye withal.

King. If we did think
His contemplations were above the earth,
And fix'd on spiritual object, he should still
Dwell in his musings ; but, I am afraid,
His thinkings are below the moon, not worth
His serious considering.

[*He takes his seat ; and whispers Lovel, who goes to Wolsey.*

Wol. Heaven forgive me !—
Ever God bless your highness !

King. Good my lord,
You are full of heavenly stuff, and bear the inventory
Of your best graces in your mind ; the which
You were now running o'er : you have scarce time
To steal from spiritual leisure a brief span,
To keep your earthly audit : Sure, in that
I deem you an ill husband ; and am glad
To have you therein my companion.

Wol. Sir,

* ——— then, stops again,] Sallust describing the disturbed
state of Cataline's mind, takes notice of the same circumstance,
“ ———citus modo, modo tardus incessus.” STEEVENS,

For holy offices I have a time ; a time
 To think upon the part of business, which
 I bear i'the state ; and nature does require
 Her times of preservation, which, perforce,
 I her frail son, amongst my brethren mortal,
 Must give my tendance to.

King. You have said well.

Wol. And ever may your highness yoke together,
 As I will lend you cause, my doing well
 With my well saying !

King. 'Tis well said again ;
 And 'tis a kind of good deed, to say well :
 And yet words are no deeds. My father lov'd you :
 He said, he did ; and with his deed did crown
 His word upon you. Since I had my office,
 I have kept you next my heart ; have not alone
 Employ'd you where high profits might come home,
 But par'd my present havings, to bestow
 My bounties upon you.

Wol. What should this mean ? [*Aside.*

Sur. The Lord increase this business ! [*Aside.*

King. Have I not made you
 The prime man of the state ? I pray you, tell me,
 If what I now pronounce, you have found true :
 And, if you may confess it, say withal,
 If you are bound to us, or no. What say you ?

Wol. My sovereign, I confess, your royal graces,
 Shower'd on me daily, have been more, than could
 My studied purposes requite ; which went
 ' Beyond all man's endeavours : my endeavours

' *Beyond all man's endeavours*——] *Endeavours* for deserts.
 But the Oxford editor not knowing the sense in which the word
 is here used, alters it to *ambition*. WARBURTON.

To put *ambition* in the place of *endeavours* is certainly wrong ;
 and to explain *endeavours* by *deserts* is not right. The sense, and
 that not very difficult, is, my *purposes* went beyond all human *en-*
deavour. I purposed for your honour more than it falls within
 the compass of man's nature to attempt. JOHNSON.

Have ever come too short of my desires,
² Yet, fil'd with my abilities : Mine own ends
 Have been mine so, that evermore they pointed
 To the good of your most sacred person, and
 The profit of the state. For your great graces
 Heap'd upon me, poor undeserver, I
 Can nothing render but allegiant thanks ;
 My prayers to heaven for you ; my loyalty,
 Which ever has, and ever shall be growing,
 'Till death, that winter, kill it.

King. Fairly answer'd ;
 A loyal and obedient subject is
 Therein illustrated : the honour of it
 Does pay the act of it ; as, ³ i'the contrary,
 The foulness is the punishment. I presume,
 That, as my hand has open'd bounty to you,
 My heart dropp'd love, my power rain'd honour, more
 On you, than any ; so your hand, and heart,
 Your brain, and every function of your power,
 Should, ⁴ notwithstanding that your bond of duty,
 As 'twere in love's particular, be more
 To me, your friend, than any.

Wol. I do profess,
 That for your highness' good I ever labour'd
 More than mine own ; that am, have, and will be.
 Though all the world should crack their duty to you,

² *Yet, fil'd with my abilities :—*] My endeavours, though less
 than my desires, have *fil'd*, that is, have gone an equal pace with
 my abilities. JOHNSON.

So, in a preceding scene :

——— *front but in that file*

Where others tell steps with me. STEEVENS.

³ ——— *o' the contrary*

The foulness is the punishment.]

So Hanmer. The rest read :

——— *i' the contrary.* JOHNSON.

* ——— *notwithstanding that your bond of duty,*] Besides the ge-
 neral bond of duty, by which you are obliged to be a loyal and
 obedient subject, you owe a particular devotion of yourself to me,
 as your particular benefactor. JOHNSON.

And throw it from their soul ; though perils did
 Abound, as thick as thought could make 'em, and
 Appear in forms more horrid ; yet my duty,
 As doth a rock against the chiding flood,
 Should the approach of this wild river break,
 And stand unshaken yours.

King. 'Tis nobly spoken :—

Take notice, lords, he has a loyal breast,
 For you have seen him open't.—Read o'er this ;

[*Giving him papers.*]

And, after, this : and then to breakfast, with
 What appetite you have.

[*Exit King, frowning upon Cardinal Wolsey ; the
 Nobles throng after him, whispering and smiling.*]

Wol. What should this mean ?

What sudden anger's this ? how have I reap'd it ?

He parted frowning from me, as if ruin

Leap'd from his eyes : So looks the chafed lion

Upon the daring huntsman that has gall'd him ;

Then makes him nothing. I must read this paper ;

I fear, the story of his anger.—'Tis so ;

This paper has undone me :—'Tis the account

Of all that world of wealth I have drawn together

For mine own ends ; indeed, to gain the popedom,

And see my friends in Rome. O negligence,

Fit for a fool to fall by ! What cross devil

Made me put this main secret in the packet

I sent the king ? Is there no way to cure this ?

No new device to beat this from his brains ?

I know, 'twill stir him strongly ; Yet I know

A way, if it take right, in spite of fortune

Will bring me off again. What's this—*To the Pope ?*

The letter, as I live, with all the business

I writ to his holiness. Nay then, farewell !

I have touch'd the highest point of all my greatness ;

And, from that full meridian of my glory,

I haste now to my setting : I shall fall

Like

(I mean, your malice) know, officious lords,
 I dare, and must deny it. Now I feel
 Of what coarse metal ye are moulded,—envy.
 How eagerly ye follow my disgrace,
 As if it fed ye? and how sleek and wanton
 Ye appear in every thing may bring my ruin?
 Follow your envious courses, men of malice;
 You have christian warrant for 'em, and, no doubt,
 In time will find their fit rewards. That seal,
 You ask with such a violence, the king,
 (Mine, and your master) with his own hand gave me:
 Bade me enjoy it, with the place and honours,
 During my life; and, to confirm his goodness,
 Ty'd it by letters patents: Now, who'll take it?

Sur. The king, that gave it.

Wol. It must be himself then.

Sur. Thou art a proud traitor, priest.

Wol. Proud lord, thou liest;

Within these forty hours Surrey durst better
 Have burnt that tongue, than said so.

Sur. Thy ambition,
 Thou scarlet sin, robb'd this bewailing land
 Of noble Buckingham, my father-in-law:
 The heads of all thy brother cardinals,
 (With thee, and all thy best parts bound together)
 Weigh'd not a hair of his. Plague of your policy!
 You sent me deputy for Ireland;
 Far from his succour, from the king, from all
 That might have mercy on the fault thou gav'st him;
 Whilst your great goodness, out of holy pity,
 Absolv'd him with an axe.

Wol. This, and all else

This talking lord can lay upon my credit,

To which they reply:

Who dare cross 'em? &c.

Wolsey, answering them, continues his own speech, *Till I find more than will or words (I mean more than your malicious will and words) to do it; that is, to carry authority so mighty; I will deny to return what the king has given me.* JOHNSON.

I an-

I answer, is most false. The duke by law
 Found his deserts : how innocent I was
 From any private malice in his end,
 His noble jury and foul cause can witness.
 If I lov'd many words, lord, I should tell you,
 You have as little honesty as honour ;
 That I, in the way of loyalty and truth
 Toward the king, my ever royal master,
 Dare mate a sounder man than Surrey can be,
 And all that love his follies.

Sur. By my soul,
 Your long coat, priest, protects you ; thou should'st
 feel

My sword i'the life-blood of thee else.—My lords,
 Can ye endure to hear this arrogance ?
 And from this fellow ? If we live thus tamely,
 To be thus jaded by a piece of scarlet,
 Farewel nobility ; let his grace go forward,
 And dare us with his cap, like larks ⁷.

Wol. All goodness
 Is poison to thy stomach.

Sur. Yes, that goodness
 Of gleaning all the land's wealth into one,
 Into your own hands, cardinal, by extortion ;
 The goodness of your intercepted packets,
 You writ to the pope, against the king : your goodness,
 Since you provoke me, shall be most notorious.—
 My lord of Norfolk,—as you are truly noble,
 As you respect the common good, the state
 Of our despis'd nobility, our issues,
 Who, if he live, will scarce be gentlemen,—
 Produce the grand sum of his sins, the articles
 Collected from his life :—I'll startle you

⁷ *And dare us with his cap, like larks.*] It is well known that the hat of a cardinal is scarlet ; and the method of *daring* larks was by small mirrors fastened on scarlet cloth, which engaged the attention of these birds while the fowler drew his net over them.

^s Worse than the sacring bell, when the brown wench
Lay kissing in your arms, lord cardinal.

Wol. How much, methinks, I could despise this
man,

But that I am bound in charity against it!

Nor. Those articles, my lord, are in the king's
hand :

But, thus much, they are foul ones.

Wol. So much fairer,
And spotless, shall mine innocence arise,
When the king knows my truth.

Sur. This cannot save you :
I thank my memory, I yet remember
Some of these articles ; and out they shall.
Now, if you can blush, and cry guilty, cardinal,
You'll shew a little honesty.

Wol. Speak on, sir ;
I dare your worst objections : if I blush,
It is, to see a nobleman want manners.

Sur. I'd rather want those, than my head. Have
at you.
First, that, without the king's assent, or knowledge,

^s *Worse than the sacring bell,—*] The little bell, which is rung
to give notice of the *Hoft* approaching when it is carried in pro-
cession, as also in other offices of the Romish church, is called
the *sacring* or *consecration* bell ; from the French word, *sacrer*.

THEOBALD.

So, in Heywood's *Rape of Lucrece*, 1614 :

“ Love is perhaps the *sacring* bell,

“ That rings all in to heaven or hell.”

Again, the abbess in the *Merry Devil of Edmonton*, 1626, says :

“ —— you shall ring the *sacring* bell,

“ Keep your hours, and toll your knell.”

Again, in Reginald Scott's *Discovery of Witchcraft*, 1584 :

“ He heard a little *sacring* bell ring to the elevation of a
tomorrow mass.”

Again, in Drayton's Epistle from *King John* to *Matilda* :

“ Who would not rise to ring the morning knell,

“ When thy sweet lips might be the *sacring* bell ?”

The now obsolete verb to *sacre*, is used by P. Holland in his trans-
lation of Pliny's *Nat. Hist.* B. X. ch. vi. STEEVENS.

You

You wrought to be a legate ; by which power
You maim'd the jurisdiction of all bishops.

Nor. Then, that, in all you writ to Rome, or else
To foreign princes, *Ego & Rex meus*
Was still inscrib'd ; in which you brought the king
To be your servant.

Suf. Then, that, without the knowledge
Either of king or council, when you went
Ambassador to the emperor, you made bold
To carry into Flanders the great seal.

Sur. Item, you sent a large commission
To Gregory de Cassalis, to conclude,
Without the king's will, or the state's allowance,
A league between his highness and Ferrara.

Suf. That, out of mere ambition, you have caus'd
Your holy hat to be stamp'd on the king's coin.

Sur. Then, that you have sent innumerable substance,

(By what means got, I leave to your own conscience)
To furnish Rome, and to prepare the ways
You have for dignities ; to the mere undoing⁹
Of all the kingdom. Many more there are ;
Which, since they are of you, and odious,
I will not taint my mouth with.

Cham. O my lord,
Preserve not a falling man too far ; 'tis virtue :
His faults lie open to the laws ; let them,
Not you, correct him. My heart weeps to see him
So little of his great self.

Sur. I forgive him.

Suf. Lord cardinal, the king's further pleasure is,—
Because all those things, you have done of late
By your power legatine within this kingdom,

⁹ —to the mere undoing—] *Mere* is absolute. So, in the
Honest Man's Fortune, by B. and Fletcher :

“ —I am as happy

“ In my friend's good, as if 'twere *merely* mine.”

STEEVENS.

Fall into the compass of a *Premunire*,¹—
 That therefore such a writ be su'd against you;
 To forfeit all your goods, lands, tenements,
² Castles, and whatsoever, and to be
 Out of the king's protection :—This is my charge.

Nor. And so we'll leave you to your meditations
 How to live better. For your stubborn answer,
 About the giving back the great seal to us,
 The king shall know it, and, no doubt, shall thank
 you.

So fare you well, my little good lord cardinal.

[*Exeunt all but Wolsey.*]

Wol. So farewell to the little good you bear me.
 Farewel, a long farewell, to all my greatness!
 This is the state of man; To-day he puts forth
 The tender leaves of hope, to-morrow blossoms,
 And bears his blushing honours thick upon him:
 The third day, comes a frost, a killing frost;
 And,—when he thinks, good easy man, full surely
 His greatness is a ripening,—³ nips his root,

And

¹ of a *præmunire*,] It is almost unnecessary to observe that *præmunire* is a barbarous word used instead of *præmonere*.

STEEVENS.

² Castles, and whatsoever,——

I have ventured to substitute *chattels* here, as the author's genuine word, because the judgment in a writ of *Premunire* is, that the defendant shall be out of the king's protection; and his lands and tenements, goods and chattels forfeited to the king; and that his body shall remain in prison at the king's pleasure. This very description of the *Premunire* is set out by Holinshed in his *Life of King Henry VIII.* p. 909. THEOBALD.

³ — nips his root,] As spring frosts are not injurious to the roots of fruit-trees, I should imagine the poet wrote *shoot*, i. e. that tender shoot on which are the young leaves and blossoms. The comparison, as well as expression of *nips*, is juster too in this reading. He has the same thought in *Love's Labour's Lost*:

“Biron is like an envious sneaping frost

“That bites the first-born infants of the spring.”

So,

And then he falls, as I do. I have ventur'd,
 Like little wanton boys that swim on bladders,
 These many summers in a sea of glory ;
 But far beyond my depth : my high-blown pride
 At length broke under me ; and now has left me,
 Weary, and old with service, to the mercy
 Of a rude stream, that must for ever hide me.
 Vain pomp, and glory of this world, I hate ye ;
 I feel my heart new open'd : O, how wretched
 Is that poor man, that hangs on princes' favours !
 There is, betwixt that smile we would aspire to,
 That sweet aspect of princes, and our ruin *,
 More pangs and fears than wars or women have ;
 And when he falls, he falls like Lucifer †,
 Never to hope again.—

Enter Cromwell, amazedly.

Why, how now, Cromwell ?

So, Milton in *Sampson Agonistes* :

“ Abortive as the first-born bloom of spring,

“ Nip'd with the lagging rear of winter's frost.”

which seems to be taken from the place in question. WARBURTON.

Here is a long note. But at last we may as well continue the ancient reading. Vernal frosts indeed do not kill the *root*, but then to *nip* the *shoots* does not kill the tree or make it fall. The metaphor will not in either reading correspond exactly with nature.

JOHNSON.

I adhere to the old reading, which is countenanced by the following passage in *A. W.'s Commendation of Gascoigne and his Poesies* :

“ And frosts so *nip* the *rootes* of vertuous meaning minds.”

See *Gascoigne's Works*, 1587. STEEVENS.

* ———and our ruin,] The old copy reads :

———their ruin. STEEVENS.

† And when he falls, he falls like Lucifer,] In the *Life and Death of Thomas Wolsey*, &c. a poem, by Tho. Storer, student of Christ-church, in Oxford, 1599, the cardinal expresses himself in a manner somewhat similar :

“ If once we fall, we fall Colossus-like,

“ We fall at once like pillars of the sunne, &c.”

STEEVENS.

Crom. I have no power to speak, sir.

Wol. What, amaz'd

At my misfortunes ? can thy spirit wonder,
A great man should decline ? Nay, an you weep,
I am fallen indeed.

Crom. How does your grace ?

Wol. Why, well ;

Never so truly happy, my good Cromwell.
I know myself now ; and I feel within me
A peace above all earthly dignities,
A still and quiet conscience. The king has cur'd me,
I humbly thank his grace ; and from these shoulders,
These ruin'd pillars, out of pity, taken
A load would sink a navy, too much honour :
O, 'tis a burden, Cromwell, 'tis a burden,
Too heavy for a man that hopes for heaven.

Crom. I am glad, your grace has made that right
use of it.

Wol. I hope, I have : I am able now, methinks,
(Out of a fortitude of soul I feel)
To endure more miseries, and greater far,
Than my weak-hearted ennies dare offer.
What news abroad ?

Crom. The heaviest, and the worst,
Is your displeasure with the king.

Wol. God bless him !

Crom. The next is, that sir Thomas More is chosen
Lord chancellor in your place.

Wol. That's somewhat sudden :

But he's a learned man. May he continue
Long in his highness' favour, and do justice
For truth's sake and his conscience ; that his bones,
When he has run his course, and sleeps in blessings,
May have ⁶ a tomb of orphans' tears wept on them !
What more ?

⁶ —a tomb of orphans' tears wept on them !] The chancellor
is the general guardian of orphans. A tomb of tears is very harsh.

Crom. That Cranmer is return'd with welcome,
Install'd lord archbishop of Canterbury.

Wol. That's news indeed.

Crom. Last, that the lady Anne,
Whom the king hath in secrecy long marry'd,
This day was view'd in open, as his queen,
Going to chapel; and the voice is now
Only about her coronation.

Wol. There was the weight that pull'd me down.

O Cromwell,

The king has gone beyond me, all my glories
In that one woman I have lost for ever :
No sun shall ever usher forth mine honours,
Or gild again the noble troops that waited
Upon my smiles. Go, get thee from me, Cromwell ;
I am a poor fallen man, unworthy now
To be thy lord and master : Seek the king ;
That sun, I pray, may never set ! I have told him
What, and how true thou art : he will advance thee ;
Some little memory of me will stir him,
I know his noble nature, not to let
Thy hopeful service perish too : Good Cromwell,
Neglect him not ; make use now, and provide
For thine own future safety.

Crom. O my lord,

Must I then leave you ? must I needs forego
So good, so noble, and so true a master ?—
Bear witness, all that have not hearts of iron,
With what a sorrow Cromwell leaves his lord.—
The king shall have my service ; but my prayers
For ever, and for ever, shall be yours.

Wol. Cromwell, I did not think to shed a tear
In all my miseries ; but thou hast forc'd me,
Out of thy honest truth, to play the woman.
Let's dry our eyes : And thus far hear me, Cromwell ;
And,—when I am forgotten, as I shall be ;
And sleep in dull cold marble, where no mention
Of me more must be heard of,—say, I taught thee,

Say, Wolsey,—that once trod the ways of glory,
 And founded all the depths and shoals of honour,—
 Found thee a way, out of his wreck, to rise in ;
 A sure and safe one, though thy master miss'd it.
 Mark but my fall, and that that ruin'd me.
 Cromwell, I charge thee, fling away ambition ;
 By that sin fell the angels, how can man then,
 The image of his Maker, hope to win by't ?
 Love thyself last : ⁷ cherish those hearts that hate
 thee ;
 Corruption wins not more than honesty.
 Still in thy right hand carry gentle peace,
 To silence envious tongues. Be just, and fear not :
 Let all the ends, thou aim'st at, be thy country's,

⁷ ——— *cherish those hearts that hate thee ;* } Though this be good
 divinity, and an admirable precept for our conduct in private life ;
 it was never calculated or designed for the magistrate or public
 minister. Nor could this be the direction of a man experienced
 in affairs, to his pupil. It would make a good christian but a
 very ill and very unjust statesman. And we have nothing so in-
 famous in tradition, as the supposed advice given to one of our
 kings, *to cherish his enemies, and be in no pain for his friends.* I
 am of opinion the poet wrote :

————— *cherish those hearts that wait thee ;*

i. e. thy dependants. For the contrary practice had contributed
 to Wolsey's ruin. He was not careful enough in making depen-
 dants by his bounty, while intent in amassing wealth to himself.
 The following line seems to confirm this correction :

Corruption wins not more than honesty.

i. e. You will never find men won over to your temporary occa-
 sions by bribery, so useful to you as friends made by a just and
 generous munificence. WARBURTON.

I am unwilling wantonly to contradict so ingenious a remark,
 but that the reader may not be misled, and believe the emenda-
 tion proposed to be absolutely necessary, he should remember that
 this is not a time for Wolsey to speak only as a *statesman*, but as
 a *christian*. Shakespeare would have debased the character, just
 when he was employing his strongest efforts to raise it, had he
 drawn it otherwise. Nothing makes the hour of disgrace more
 irksome, than the reflection, that we have been deaf to offers of
 reconciliation, and perpetuated that enmity which we might have
 converted into friendship. STEEVENS.

Thy God's, and truth's ; then if thou fall'st, O
Cromwell,

Thou fall'st a blessed martyr. Serve the king ;

And,—Pr'ythee, lead me in :

There take an inventory of all I have,

To the last penny ; 'tis the king's : my robe,

And my integrity to heaven, is all

I dare now call mine own. O Cromwell, Cromwell,

* Had I but serv'd my God with half the zeal

I serv'd my king, he would not in mine age

Have left me naked to mine enemies.

Crom. Good sir, have patience.

Wol. So I have. Farewel

The hopes of court ! my hopes in heaven do dwell.

[*Exeunt.*]

A C T I V. S C E N E I.

A Street in Westminster.

Enter two Gentlemen, meeting one another.

1 *Gen.* You are well met⁹ once again.

2 *Gen.* So are you.

1 *Gen.* You come to take your stand here, and behold

* *Had I but serv'd my God, &c.]* This sentence was really uttered by Wolsey. JOHNSON.

When Samrah, the deputy governor of Basorah, was deposed by Moawiyah the sixth caliph, he is reported to have expreis'd himself in the same manner : —“ If I had served God so well as I have served him, he would never have condemned me to all eternity.” STEEVENS.

⁹ ———— *once again.]* Alluding their former meeting in the second act. JOHNSON.

The lady Anne pass from her coronation ?

2 Gen. 'Tis all my business. At our last encounter,
The duke of Buckingham came from his trial.

1 Gen. 'Tis very true : but that time offer'd for-
row ;

This, general joy.

2 Gen. 'Tis well : the citizens,
I am sure, have shewn at full their royal minds ;
As, let 'em have their rights, they are ever forward
In celebration of ' this day with shews,
Pageants, and fights of honour.

1 Gen. Never greater,
Nor, I'll assure you, better taken, sir.

2 Gen. May I be bold to ask what that contains,
That paper in your hand ?

1 Gen. Yes ; 'tis the list
Of those, that claim their offices this day,
By custom of the coronation.
The duke of Suffolk is the first, and claims
To be high steward ; next, the duke of Norfolk,
To be earl marshal : you may read the rest.

2 Gen. I thank you, sir ; had I not known those
customs,

I should have been beholden to your paper.
But, I beseech you, what's become of Katharine,
The princess dowager ? how goes her business ?

1 Gen. That I can tell you too. The archbishop
Of Canterbury, accompanied with other
Learned and reverend fathers of his order,
Held a late court at Dunstable, six miles off
From Ampthill, where the princess lay ; to which
She oft was cited by them, but appear'd not :
And, to be short, for not appearance, and

* ——— *this day* ———] Hammer reads ;
————— *these days*, ———

but Shakespeare meant *such a day as this*, a coronation day. And
such is the English idiom, which our authour commonly prefers
to grammatical nicety. JOHNSON.

The

The king's late scruple, by the main assent
Of all these learned men she was divorc'd,
And the late marriage made of none effect :
Since which, she was removed to Kimbolton,
Where she remains now, sick.

2 Gen. Alas, good lady !—

The trumpets sound : stand close, the queen is coming.
[Hautboys.

THE ORDER OF THE CORONATION.

1. *A lively flourish of trumpets.*
 2. *Then two Judges.*
 3. *Lord Chancellor, with the purse and mace before him.*
 4. *Choristers singing.* [Musick.
 5. *Mayor of London, bearing the mace. Then Garter, in his coat of arms, and on his head a gilt copper crown.*
 6. *Marquis Dorset, bearing a scepter of gold, on his head a demi-coronal of gold. With him, the Earl of Surrey, bearing the rod of silver with the dove, crown'd with an earl's coronet. Collars of SS.*
 7. *Duke of Suffolk, in his robe of estate, his coronet on his head, bearing a long white wand, as high steward. With him, the Duke of Norfolk, with the rod of marshalship, a coronet on his head. Collars of SS.*
 8. *A canopy borne by four of the Cinque ports ; under it, the Queen in her robe ; in her hair richly adorned with pearl, crowned. On each side her, the bishops of London and Winchester.*
 9. *The old Dutcheß of Norfolk, in a coronal of gold, wrought with flowers, bearing the Queen's train.*
 10. *Certain Ladies or Countesses, with plain circlets of gold without flowers.*
- They pass over the stage in order and state.*

2 Gen. A royal train, believe me.—These I know ;—
Who's that, that bears the scepter ?

1 Gen. Marquis Dorset :
And that the earl of Surrey, with the rod.

2 Gen. A bold brave gentleman. That should be
The duke of Suffolk.

1 Gen. 'Tis the same ; high-steward.

2 Gen. And that my lord of Norfolk.

1 Gen. Yes.

2 Gen. Heaven bless thee ! [*Looking on the queen.*
Thou hast the sweetest face I ever look'd on.—
Sir, as I have a soul, she is an angel ;
Our king has all the Indies in his arms,
And more, and richer, when he strains that lady :
I cannot blame his conscience.

1 Gen. They, that bear
The cloth of honour over her, are four barons
Of the Cinque-ports,

2 Gen. Those men are happy ; so are all, are near her.
I take it, she that carries up the train,
Is that old noble lady, dutchess of Norfolk.

1 Gen. It is ; and all the rest are countesses.

2 Gen. Their coronets say so. These are stars, in-
deed ;

And, sometimes, falling ones.

1 Gen. No more of that.

[*Exit Procession, with a great flourish of trumpets.*

Enter a third Gentleman.

God save you, sir ! Where have you been broiling ?

3 Gen. Among the croud i' the abbey ; where a
finger

Could not be wedg'd in more : I am stifled,
With the mere rankness of their joy.

2 Gen. You saw the ceremony ?

3 Gen. That I did.

1 Gen. How was it ?

3 Gen.

3 Gen. Well worth the seeing.

2 Gen. Good fir, ſpeak it to us.

3 Gen. As well as I am able. The rich ſtream
Of lords, and ladies, having brought the queen
To a prepar'd place in the choir, fell off
A diſtance from her; while her grace ſat down
To reſt awhile, ſome half an hour, or ſo,
In a rich chair of ſtate, oppoſing freely
The beauty of her perſon to the people.
Believe me, fir, ſhe is the goodlieſt woman
That ever lay by man: which when the people
Had the full view of, ſuch a noiſe aroſe
As the ſhrouds make at ſea in a ſtiff tempeſt,
As loud, and to as many tunes: Hats, cloaks,
(Doublets, I think) flew up; and had their faces
Been looſe, this day they had been loſt. Such joy
I never ſaw before. Great-belly'd women,
That had not half a week to go, ² like rams
In the old time of war, would ſhake the preſs,
And make 'em reel before 'em. No man living
Could ſay, *This is my wife*, there; all were woven
So ſtrangely in one piece.

2 Gen. But, what follow'd?

3 Gen. At length her grace roſe, and with modeſt
paces

Came to the altar; where ſhe kneel'd, and, ſaint-like,
Caſt her fair eyes to heaven, and pray'd devoutly.
Then roſe again, and bow'd her to the people:
When by the archbiſhop of Canterbury,
She had all the royal makings of a queen;
As holy oil, Edward Confefſor's crown,
The rod, and bird of peace, and all ſuch emblems
Lay'd nobly on her: which perform'd, the choir,
With all the choiceſt muſick of the kingdom,
Together ſung *Te Deum*. So ſhe parted,
And with the ſame full ſtate pac'd back again

? — *like rams*] That is, like battering rams. JOHNSON.

To

To York place, where the feast is held.

1 *Gen.* You must no more call it York place, that's past :

For, since the cardinal fell, that title's lost ;
'Tis now the king's, and call'd—Whitehall.

3 *Gen.* I know it ;
But 'tis so lately alter'd, that the old name
Is fresh about me.

2 *Gen.* What two reverend bishops
Were those that went on each side of the queen ?

3 *Gen.* Stokesly, and Gardiner ; the one, of Winchester,
(Newly preferr'd from the king's secretary)
The other, London.

2 *Gen.* He of Winchester
Is held no great good lover of the archbishop's,
The virtuous Cranmer.

3 *Gen.* All the land knows that :
However, yet there's no great breach ; when it comes,
Cranmer will find a friend will not shrink from him.

2 *Gen.* Who may that be, I pray you ?

3 *Gen.* Thomas Cromwell ;
A man in much esteem with the king, and truly
A worthy friend. The king has made him
Master o' the jewel-house,
And one, already, of the privy-council.

2 *Gen.* He will deserve more.

3 *Gen.* Yes, without all doubt.
Come, gentlemen, ye shall go my way, which
Is to the court, and there shall be my guests ;
Something I can command. As I walk thither,
I'll tell ye more.

Both. You may command us, sir.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE

SCENE II.

Kimbolton.

Enter Katharine, Dowager, sick, led between Griffith her gentleman-usker, and Patience her woman.

Grif. How does your grace?

Kath. O, Griffith, sick to death:

My legs, like loaded branches, bow to the earth,
Willing to leave their burden: Reach a chair;—
So,—now, methinks, I feel a little ease.
Didst thou not tell me, Griffith, as thou led'st me,
That the great child of honour, cardinal Wolsey,
Was dead?

Grif. Yes, madam; but, I think, your grace,
Out of the pain you suffer'd, gave no ear to't.

Kath. Pry'thee, good Griffith, tell me how he dy'd:
If well, he stepp'd before me, happily,
For my example.

Grif. Well, the voice goes, madam:
For after the stout earl Northumberland
Arrested him at York, and brought him forward
(As a man sorely tainted) to his answer,
He fell sick suddenly, and grew so ill,
He could not sit his mule.

³ SCENE II.] This scene is above any other part of Shakespeare's tragedies, and perhaps above any scene of any other poet, tender and pathetick, without gods, or furies, or poisons, or precipices, without the help of romantick circumstances, without improbable fallies of poetical lamentation, and without any throes of tumultuous misery. JOHNSON.

⁴ ——— he stepp'd before me, happily,

For my example.]

Happily seems to mean on this occasion—peradventure, haply. I have been more than once of this opinion, when I have met with the same word thus spelt in other passages. STEEVENS.

Kath.

Kath. Alas, poor man !

Grif. At last, with easy roads⁵, he came to Leicester,

Lodg'd in the abbey ; where the reverend abbot,
With all his convent, honourably receiv'd him ;
To whom he gave these words,—*O father abbot,*
An old man, broken with the storms of state,
Is come to lay his weary bones among ye ;
Give him a little earth for charity !"

So went to bed : where eagerly his sickness
Pursu'd him still ; and, three nights after this,
About the hour of eight, (which he himself
Foretold, should be his last) full of repentance,
Continual meditations, tears, and sorrows,
He gave his honours to the world again,
His blessed part to heaven, and slept in peace.

Kath. So may he rest ; his faults lie gently on him !
Yet thus far, Griffith, give me leave to speak him,
And yet with charity,—He was a man
Of an unbounded stomach,⁶ ever ranking
Himself with princes ; ⁷ one, that by suggestion

Ty'd

⁵ ——— *with easy roads,* ———] i. e. by short stages. STEEVENS.

⁶ *Of an unbounded stomach,* ———] i. e. of unbounded pride, or haughtiness. So, Holinshed, speaking of king Richard III :

" Such a great audacitie and such a *stomach* reigned in his bodie." STEEVENS.

⁷ ——— *one, that by suggestion*

Ty'd all the kingdom :]

i. e. by giving the king pernicious counsel, he *ty'd* or enslaved the kingdom. He uses the word here with great propriety, and seeming knowledge of the Latin tongue. For the late Roman writers, and their glossers, agree to give this sense to it : *Suggestio est cum magistratus quilibet principi salubre consilium suggerit.* So that nothing could be severer than this reflection, that that wholesome counsel, which it is the minister's duty to give his prince, was so empoisoned by him, as to produce slavery to his country. Yet all this fine sense vanishes instantaneously before the touch of the Oxford editor, by his happy thought of changing *ty'd* into *ty'd*. WARBURTON.

The word *suggestion*, says the critick, is here used with great pro-

Ty'd all the kingdom : simony was fair play ;
His own opinion was his law : I' the prefence

He

propriety, and *seeming* knowledge of the Latin tongue : and he proceeds to settle the sense of it from *the late Roman writers and their glossers*. But Shakespeare's knowledge was from Holinshed, whom he follows *verbatim* :

“ This cardinal was of a great stomach, for he compted himself equal with princes, and by craftie *suggestion* got into his hands innumerable treasure : he forced little on simonie, and was not pitifull, and stood affectionate in his own opinion : in open prefence he would lie and seie untruth, and was double both in speech and meaning : he would promise much and perform little : he was vicious of his bodie, and gave the clergie euil example.” Edit. 1587, p. 922.

Perhaps after this quotation, you may not think, that sir Thomas Hanmer, who reads *tyth'd*—instead of *ty'd all the kingdom*, deserves quite so much of Dr. Warburton's severity.—Indisputably the passage, like every other in the speech, is intended to expresse the meaning of the parallel one in the chronicle ; it cannot therefore be credited, that any man, when the *original* was produced, should still chuse to defend a *cant* acceptation, and inform us, perhaps, *seriously*, that in *gaming* language, from I know not what practice, to *tye* is to *equal* ! A sense of the word, as far as I have yet found, *unknown* to our old writers ; and, if *known*, would not surely have been used in *this* place by our author.

But let us turn from conjecture to Shakespeare's authorities. Hall, from whom the above description is copied by Holinshed, is very explicit in the demands of the *cardinal* : who having insolently told the *lord-mayor* and *aldermen*, “ For sothe I thinke, that *halfe* your substance were too little,” assures them by way of comfort at the end of his harangue, that *upon an average*, the *tythe* should be sufficient ; “ Sers, speake not to breake that thyng that is concluded, for *some* shall not paie, the *tenth* parte, and *some* more.”—And again ; “ Thei saied, the cardinall by visitacions, makynge of abbottes, probates of testaments, graunting of faculties, licences, and other pollyngs in his courtes legantines, had made his *threasure* egall with the *kynges*.” Edit. 1548, p. 138, and 143. FARMER.

In Storer's *Life and Death of Tho. Wolfey*, a poem, 1599, the cardinal says :—

“ I car'd not for the gentrie, for I had

“ *Tithe*-gentlemen, yong nobles of the land, &c.”

STEEVENS.

Ty'd all the kingdom :] i. e. He was a man of an unbounded stomach, or pride, ranking himself with princes, and by suggestion

He would say untruths ; and be ever double,
Both in his words and meaning : He was never,

gession to the king and the pope, he *ty'd*, i. e. limited, circumscribed, and set bounds to the liberties and properties of all persons in the kingdom. That he did so, appears from various passages in the play. Act II. sc. ii. " free us from his slavery," " or this imperious man will work us all from princes into pages ; all men's honours, &c. Act III. sc. ii. " You wrought to be a legate, by which power you *maim'd* the jurisdiction of all bishops." See also Act I. sc. i. and Act III. sc. ii. This construction of the passage may be supported from D'Ewes's *Journal of Queen Elizabeth's Parliaments*, p. 644. " Far be it from me that the state and prerogative of the prince should be *tied* by me, or by the act of any other subject."

Dr. Farmer has displayed such eminent knowledge of Shakespeare, that it is with the utmost diffidence I dissent from the alteration which he would establish here. He would read *tyth'd*, and refers to the authorities of Hall and Holinshed about a tax of the *tenth*, or *tythe*, of each man's substance, which is not taken notice of in the play. Let it be remarked that it is queen Katharine speaks here, who, in Act I. sc. ii. told the king it was a demand of the *sixth* part of each subject's substance, that caused the rebellion. Would she afterwards say that he, i. e. Wolsey, had *tythed* all the kingdom, when she knew he had almost *double-tythed* it? Still Dr. Farmer insists that " the passage, like every other in the speech, is intended to express the meaning of the parallel one in the *Chronicle*." i. e. The cardinal " by craftie suggestion got into his hands innumerable treasure." This passage does not relate to a public tax of the *tenths*, but to the cardinal's own private acquisitions. If in this sense I admitted the alteration, *tyth'd*, I would suppose that, as the queen is descanting on the cardinal's own acquirements, she borrows her term from the principal emolument or payment due to priests ; and means to intimate that the cardinal was not content with the *tythes* legally accruing to him from his own various pluralities, but that he extorted something equivalent to them throughout all the kingdom. So Buckingham says, Act I. sc. i. " No man's pye is freed from his ambitious finger." So, again, Surrey says, Act III. sc. ult. " Yes, that goodness of gleaning all the land's wealth into one, into your own hands, cardinal, by extortion : " and *ibidem*. " You have sent innumerable substance (by what means got, I leave to your own conscience) to the mere undoing of all the kingdom." This extortion is so frequently spoken of, that perhaps our author purposely avoided a repetition of it in the passage under consideration, and therefore gave a different sentiment declarative of the consequence of his unbounded pride, that must humble all others.

TOLLET.

But

But where he meant to ruin, pitiful :
His promises were, as he then was, mighty ;
But his performance, as he is now, nothing³.
Of his own body he was ill⁹, and gave
The clergy ill example.

Grif. Noble madam,
Men's evil manners live in brass ; their virtues
We write in water¹. May it please your highness
To hear me speak his good now ?

Kath. Yes, good Griffith ;
I were malicious else.

Grif. This cardinal,
Though from an humble stock, undoubtedly
Was fashion'd to much honour. From his cradle,
He was a scholar, and a ripe, and good one :
Exceeding wise, fair spoken, and persuading :
Lofty, and four, to them that lov'd him not ;
But, to those men that fought him, sweet as summer.

³ — as he is now, nothing.] So, in Massinger's *Great Duke of Florence* :

“ ——— Great men

“ Till they have gain'd their ends, are giants in

“ Their promises ; but those obtain'd, weak pygmies

“ In their performance.” STEEVENS.

⁹ Of his own body he was ill,] A criminal connection with women was anciently called *the vice of the body*. So, in *Holinshed*, p. 1258 : “ he laboured by all meanes to cleare mistresse Sanders of committing *evill of her bodie* with him. STEEVENS.

¹ ——— their virtues

“ We write in water. ———]

Beaumont and Fletcher have the same thought in their *Philaster* :

“ ——— all your better deeds

“ Shall be in water writ, but this in marble.” STEEVENS.

This reflection bears a great resemblance to a passage in Sir Tho. More's *Hist. of Richard III.* whence Shakespeare undoubtedly formed his play on that subject. Speaking of the ungrateful turns which Jane Shore experienced from those whom she had served in her prosperity ; More adds, “ Men use, if they have an evil turne, to write it in marble, and whose doth us a good turne, we write it in duste.” *More's Works*, bl. l. 1557, p. 59.

PERCY.

And

And though he were unsatisfy'd in getting,
 (Which was a fin) yet in bestowing, madam,
 He was most princely : Ever witness for him
 Those twins of learning, that he rais'd in you,
 Ipswich, and Oxford ! one of which fell with him,
 Unwilling to out-live the good he did it ² ;
 'The other, though unfinish'd, yet so famous,
 So excellent in art, and still so rising,
 That Christendom shall ever speak his virtue.
 His overthrow heap'd happiness upon him ;
 For then, and not 'till then, he felt himself,
 And found the blessedness of being little :
 And, to add greater honours to his age
 Than man could give him, he dy'd, fearing God.

Kath. After my death I wish no other herald,
 No other speaker of my living actions,
 To keep mine honour from corruption,
 But such an honest chronicler as Griffith.
 Whom I most hated living, thou hast made me,
 With thy religious truth, and modesty,
 Now in his ashes honour : Peace be with him !—
 Patience, be near me still ; and set me lower :
 I have not long to trouble thee.—Good Griffith,
 Cause the musicians play me that sad note
 I nam'd my knell, whilst I sit meditating
 On that celestial harmony I go to.

Sad and solemn musick.

Grif. She is asleep : Good wench, let's fit down
 quiet,
 For fear we wake her :—Softly, gentle Patience.

The vision. Enter, solemnly tripping one after another ³,
 six personages, clad in white robes, wearing on their

² ———he did it ;] The old copy reads :

———that did it. STEEVENS.

³ ———solemnly tripping one after another,] This whimsical
 stage-direction is exactly taken from the old copy. STEEVENS.

heads garlands of bays, and golden vizards on their faces; branches of bays, or palm, in their hands. They first congee unto her, then dance; and, at certain changes, the first two hold a spare garland over her head; at which, the other four make reverend courtesies; then the two, that held the garland, deliver the same to the other next two, who observe the same order in their changes, and holding the garland over her head: which done, they deliver the same garland to the last two, who likewise observe the same order: at which, (as it were by inspiration) she makes in her sleep signs of rejoicing, and holdeth up her hands to heaven: and so in their dancing they vanish, carrying the garland with them. *The musick continues.*

Kath. Spirits of peace, where are ye? Are ye all gone?

And leave me here in wretchedness behind ye?

Grif. Madam, we are here.

Kath. It is not you I call for:

Saw ye none enter, since I slept?

Grif. None, madam.

Kath. No? Saw you not, even now, a blessed troop
Invite me to a banquet; whose bright faces
Cast thousand beams upon me, like the sun?
They promis'd me eternal happiness;
And brought me garlands, Griffith, which I feel
I am not worthy yet to wear: I shall,
Assuredly.

Grif. I am most joyful, madam, such good dreams
Possess your fancy.

Kath. Bid the musick leave,
They are harsh and heavy to me. [*Musick ceases.*]

Pat. Do you note,
How much her grace is alter'd on the sudden?
How long her face is drawn? How pale she looks,
And of an earthy cold? Mark her eyes.

VOL. VII. U. *Grif.*

Grif. She is going, wench ; pray, pray.

Pat. Heaven comfort her !

Enter a Messenger.

Mef. An't like your grace,—

Kath. You are a sawey fellow :
Deserve we no more reverence ?

Grif. You are to blame,
Knowing, she will not lose her wonted greatness,
To use so rude behaviour : go to, kneel.

Mef. I humbly do entreat your highness' pardon ;
My haste made me unmannerly : There is staying
A gentleman, sent from the king, to see you.

Kath. Admit him entrance, Griffith : But this
fellow
Let me ne'er see again.

[Exeunt Griffith, and Messenger.]

Re-enter Griffith, with Capucius.

If my sight fail not,
You should be lord ambassador from the emperor,
My royal nephew, and your name Capucius.

Cap. Madam, the same, your servant.

Kath. O my lord,
The times, and titles, now are alter'd strangely
With me, since first you knew me. But, I pray you,
What is your pleasure with me ?

Cap. Noble lady,
First, mine own service to your grace ; the next,
The king's request that I would visit you ;
Who grieves much for your weakness, and by me
Sends you his princely commendations,
And heartily entreats you take good comfort.

Kath. O my good lord, that comfort comes too late ;
'Tis like a pardon after execution :

That

That gentle phyfick, given in time, had cur'd me;
But now I am paſt all comforts here, but prayers.
How does his highneſs?

Cap. Madam, in good health.

Kath. So may he ever do! and ever flouriſh,
When I ſhall dwell with worms, and my poor name
Banish'd the kingdom!—Patience, is that letter,
I cauſ'd you write, yet ſent away?

Pat. No, madam.

Kath. Sir, I moſt humbly pray you to deliver
This to my lord the king?

Cap. Moſt willing, madam.

Kath. In which I have commended to his goodneſs
The model of our chaſte loves, his young daughter:—

The dews of heaven fall thick in bleſſings on her!—
Beſeeching him, to give her virtuous breeding;
(She is young, and of a noble modeſt nature;
I hope, ſhe will deſerve well) and a little
To love her for her mother's ſake, that lov'd him,
Heaven knows how dearly. My next poor petition
Is, that his noble grace would have ſome pity
Upon my wretched women, that ſo long
Have follow'd both my fortunes faithfully:
Of which there is not one, I dare avow,
(And now I ſhould not lye) but will deſerve,
For virtue, and true beauty of the ſoul,
For honeſty, and decent carriage,
A right good huſband; let him be a noble;
And, ſure, thoſe men are happy that ſhall have 'em.

⁴ *This to my lord the king.*] So, *Holinſhed*, p. 939: “—perceiving himſelfe to wax verie weak and feeble, and to feele death approaching at hand, cauſed one of his gentlewomen to write a letter to the king commending to him his daughter and his, beſeeching him to ſtand good father unto her; and further deſired him to have ſome conſideration of his gentlewomen that had ſerved him, and to ſee them beſtowed in marriage. Further that it would pleaſe him to appoint that his ſervants might have their due wages, and a yeares wages beſide.” STEEVENS.

The last is, for my men ;—they are the poorest,
 But poverty could never draw 'em from me ;—
 That they may have their wages duly paid 'em,
 And something over to remember me by :
 If heaven had pleas'd to have given me longer life,
 And able means, we had not parted thus.
 These are the whole contents :—And, good my lord,
 By that you love the dearest in this world,
 As you wish christian peace to souls departed,
 Stand these poor people's friend, and urge the king
 To do me this last right.

Cap. By heaven, I will ;
 Or let me lose the fashion of a man !

Kath. I thank you, honest lord. Remember me
 In all humility unto his highness :
 Say, his long trouble now is passing
 Out of this world : tell him, in death I blest him,
 For so I will.—Mine eyes grow dim.—Farewel,
 My lord.—Griffith, farewel.—Nay, Patience,
 You must not leave me yet. I must to bed ;—
 Call in more women.—When I am dead, good wench,
 Let me be us'd with honour ; strew me over
 With maiden flowers, that all the world may know
 I was a chaste wife to my grave : embalm me,
 Then lay me forth : although unqueen'd, yet like
 A queen, and daughter to a king, interr me.
 I can no more.— [*Exeunt, leading Katharine.*

ACT V. SCENE I.

Some part of the Palace.

Enter Gardiner Bishop of Winchester, a Page with a torch before him, met by Sir Thomas Lovel.

Gard. It's one a' clock, boy, is't not?

Boy. It hath struck.

Gard. These should be hours for necessities,
 5 Not for delights; times to repair our nature
 With comforting repose, and not for us
 To waste these times.—Good hour of night, fir
 Thomas!

Whither so late?

Lov. Came you from the king, my lord?

Gard. I did, fir Thomas; and left him at primero⁶
 With the duke of Suffolk.

Lov. I must to him too,
 Before he go to bed. I'll take my leave.

Gard. Not yet, fir Thomas Lovel. What's the
 matter?

⁵ *Not for delights;—*] Gardiner himself is not much delighted. The delight at which he hints, seems to be the king's diversion, which keeps him in attendance. JOHNSON.

⁶ *— at primero*] *Primero* and *primavista*, two games at cards, H. I. *Primera Primavista*. La *Primiere*, G. *Prime*, f. *Prime veue*. *Primum*, et *primum visum*, that is, first, and first seen: because he that can shew such an order of cards first, wins the game. *Minshieu's Guide into Tongues*, col. 575. GRAY.
 So, in *Woman's a Weathercock*, 1612.

“Come will your lordship make one at *primero*?”

Again, in the Preface to *The Rival Friends*, 1632:

“—when it may be, some of our butterfly judgments
 expected a set at maw or *primavista* from them.”

STEEVENS.

294 KING HENRY VIII.

It seems, you are in haste : an if there be
No great offence belongs to't, give your friend
Some touch of your late business : Affairs, that
walk

(As, they say, spirits do) at midnight, have
In them a wilder nature, than the business
That seeks dispatch by day,

Lov. My lord, I love you ;
And durst commend a secret to your ear
Much weightier than this work. The queen's in
labour,

They say, in great extremity ; and fear'd,
She'll with the labour end.

Gard. The fruit, she goes with,
I pray for heartily ; that it may find
Good time, and live : but for the stock, sir Thomas,
I wish it grubb'd up now.

Lov. Methinks, I could
Cry the amen ; and yet my conscience says
She's a good creature, and, sweet lady, does
Deserve our better wishes.

Gard. But, sir, sir,—
Hear me, sir Thomas : You are a gentleman
Of mine own way ; I know you wise, religious ;
And, let me tell you, it will ne'er be well,—
'Twill not, sir Thomas Lovel, take't of me,—
'Till Cranmer, Cromwell, her two hands, and she,
Sleep in their graves.

Lov. Now, sir, you speak of two
The most remark'd i'the kingdom, As for Crom-
well,—
Beside that of the jewel-house, he's made master
O'the rolls, and the king's secretary ; further, sir,

⁷ Some touch of your late business :—] Some hint of the business that keeps you awake so late. JOHNSON.

⁸ — mine own way ;—] Mine own opinion in religion, JOHNSON.

Stands in the gap and trade of more preferments,
With which the time will load him : The archbishop
Is the king's hand, and tongue ; And who dare speak
One syllable against him ?

Gard. Yes, yes, fir Thomas,
There are that dare ; and I myself have ventur'd
To speak my mind of him : and, indeed, this day,
Sir, (I may tell it you) I think, I have¹
Incens'd the lords o'the council, that he is
(For so I know he is, they know he is)
A most arch heretick, a pestilence
That does infect the land : with which they mov'd,
Have² broken with the king ; who hath so far
Given ear to our complaint, (of his great grace
And princely care ; foreseeing those fell mischiefs
Our reasons laid before him) he hath commanded,
To-morrow morning to the council-board
He be convented³. He's a rank weed, fir Thomas,
And we must root him out. From your affairs
I hinder you too long : good night, fir Thomas.

Lov. Many good nights, my lord ; I rest your
servant. [*Exeunt Gardiner, and Page.*]

¹ *Stands in the gap and trade of more preferments,*] We should read *tread*, i. e. road. WARBURTON.

Trade is the *practised method*, the *general course*. JOHNSON.

Trade has been already used by Shakespeare with this meaning in *K. Richard II* :

“ Some way of common *trade*.” STEEVENS.

¹ ——— *I have*

Incens'd the lords o' the council, that he is, &c.

A most arch heretick, ———]

This passage, according to Shakespeare's licentious grammar, may mean—I have incens'd the lords of the council, *for* that he is, i. e. because. STEEVENS.

² ——— *broken with the king ;* ———] They have broken silence ; told their minds to the king. JOHNSON.

³ *He be convented.*] *Convented* is *summoned*, convened.

STEEVENS.

As Lovel is going out, enter the King, and the Duke of Suffolk.

King. Charles, I will play no more to-night ;
My mind's not on't, you are too hard for me.

Suf. Sir, I did never win of you before.

King. But little, Charles ;
Nor shall not, when my fancy's on my play.—
Now, Lovel, from the queen what is the news ?

Lov. I could not personally deliver to her
What you commanded me, but by her woman
I sent your message ; who return'd her thanks
In the greatest humbleness, and desir'd your highness
Most heartily to pray for her.

King. What say'st thou ? ha !
To pray for her ? what, is she crying out ?

Lov. So said her woman ; and that her sufferance
made
Almost each pang a death.

King. Alas, good lady !

Suf. God safely quit her of her burden, and
With gentle travel, to the gladding of
Your highness with an heir !

King. 'Tis midnight, Charles,
Pr'ythee, to bed ; and in thy prayers remember
The estate of my poor queen. Leave me alone ;
For I must think of that, which company
Would not be friendly to.

Suf. I wish your highness
A quiet night, and my good mistress will
Remember in my prayers.

King. Charles, good night.— [Exit Suffolk]

Enter

Enter Sir Anthony Denny ⁴.

Well, fir, what follows ?

Denny. Sir, I have brought my lord the archbishop,
As you commanded me.

King.

⁴ *Enter Sir Anthony Denny.*] The substance of this and the two following scenes is taken from Fox's *Acts and Monuments of the Christian Martyrs*, &c. 1563.

" When night came, the king sent fir Anthonie Denie about midnight to Lambeth to the archbishop, willing him forthwith to resort unto him at the court. The message done, the archbishop speedily addressed himselfe to the court, and comming into the gallerie where the king walked and taried for him, his highnesse said, Ah, my lorde of Canterbury, I can tell you newes. For divers weighty considerations it is determined by me and the counsaile, that you to-morrowe at nine of the clocke shall be committed to the Tower, for that you and your chaplaines (as information is given us) have taught and preached, and thereby fown within the realme such a number of execrable heresies, that it is feared the whole realme being infected with them, no small contention and commotions will rise thereby amongst my subjects, as of late daies the like was in divers parts of Germanie, and therefore the counsell have requested me for the triall of the matter, to suffer them to commit you to the Tower, or else no man dare come forth, as witnesse in these matters, you being a counsellor.

When the king had said his mind, the archbishop kneeled down, and said, I am content if it please your grace with al my hart, to go thither at your highness commandement; and I most humbly thank your majesty that I may come to my triall, for there be that have many waies slandered me, and now this way I hope to trie myselfe not worthy of such reporte.

The king perceiving the mans uprightness, joyned with such simplicitie, said; Oh Lorde, what maner a man be you? What simplicitie is in you? I had thought that you would rather have sued to us to have taken the paines to have heard you and your accusers together for your triall, without any such indurance. Do not you know what state you be in with the whole world, and how many great enemies you have? Do you not consider what an easie thing it is to procure three or foure false knaves to witnesse against you? Thinke you to have better lucke that waie than your master Christ had? I see by it you will run headlong to your undoing, if I would suffer you. Your enemies shall not
so

King. Ha ! Canterbury ?

Denny. Ay, my good lord.

King.

so prevaile against you ; for I have otherwise devised with my felie to keep you out of their handes. Yet notwithstanding tomorrow when the counsaile shall sit, and send for you, resort unto them, and if in charging you with this matter, they do commit you to the Tower, require of them, because you are one of them, a counsailler, that you may have your accusers brought before them without any further indurance, and use for your selfe as good persuasions that way as you may devise ; and if no intreatie or reasonable request will serve, then deliver unto them this my ring (which then the king delivered unto the archbishop) and saie unto them, if there be no remedie my lords, but that I must needs go to the Tower, then I revoke my cause from you, and appeale to the kinges owne person by this token unto you all, for (saide the king then unto the archbishop) so soone as they shall see this my ryng, they knowe it so well, that they shall understande that I have reserved the whole cause into mine owne handes and determination, and that I have discharged them thereof.

The archbishop perceiving the kinges benignity so much to him wards, had much ado to forbear teares. Well, said the king, go your waies, my lord, and do as I have bidden you. My lord, humbling himselfe with thanks, tooke his leave of the kinges highnesse for that night.

On the morrow, about nine of the clocke before noone, the counsaile sent a gentleman usher for the archbishop, who, when hee came to the counsaile chamber doore, could not be let in, but of purpose (as it seemed) was compelled there to waite among the pages, lackies, and serving men all alone. D. Buts the king's phyfition resorting that way, and espying how my lord of Canterbury was handled, went to the king's highnesse, and said ; My lord of Canterbury, if it please your grace, is well promoted ; for nowe he is become a lackey or a serving man, for yonder hee standeth this halfe hower at the counsaile chamber doore amongste them. It is not so, (quoth the king) I trowe, nor the counsaile hath not so little discretion as to use the metropolitane of the realme in that fort, specially being one of their own number. But let them alone (said the king) and we shall heare more soone.

Anone the archbishop was called into the counsaile chamber, to whom was alleadged as before is rehearsed. The archbishop answered in like sort, as the king had advised him ; and in the end when he perceived that no maner of persuasion or intreatie could serve, he delivered them the king's ring, revoking his cause into the kings hands. The whole counsaile being thereat some-
what

King. 'Tis true : Where is he, Denny ?

Denny. He attends your highness' pleasure.

King. Bring him to us. *[Exit Denny.]*

Lov. This is about that which the bishop spake ;
I am happily come hither, *[Aside.]*

Re-enter Denny, with Cranmer.

King. Avoid the gallery. *[Lovel seemeth to stay.]*

what amazed, the earle of Bedford with a loud voice confirming his words with a solemn othe, said ; When you first began the matter, my lordes, I told you what would come of it. Do you thinke that the king would suffer this man's finger to ake ? Much more (I warrant you) will hee defend his life against brabbling varlets. You doe but cumber yourselves to hear tales and fables against him. And incontinently upon the receipt of the kings token, they all rose, and carried to the king his ring, surrendring that matter as the order and use was, into his own hands.

When they were all come to the kings presence, his highness, with a severe countenance, said unto them ; ah, my lordes, I thought I had had wiser men of my counsaile than now I find you. What discretion was this in you thus to make the primate of the realme, and one of you in office, to wait at the counsaile chamber doore amongst serving men ? You might have considered that he was a counsailler as wel as you, and you had no such commission of me so to handle him. I was content that you should trie him as a counsellor, and not as a meane subject. But now I well perceive that things be done against him maliciouſlie, and if some of you might have had your mindes, you would have tried him to the uttermost. But I doe you all to wit, and protest, that if a prince may bee beholding unto his subject (and so solemnlie laying his hand upon his brest) said, by the faith I owe to God I take this man here my lord of Canterburie, to bee of all other a most faithfull subject unto us, and one to whome we are much beholding, giving him great commendations otherwise. And, with that, one or two of the chiefeſt of the counsaile, making their excuse, declared, that in requesting his induraunce, it was rather ment for his triall and his purgation against the common fame and slander of the worlde, then for any malice conceived against him. Well, well, my lords, (quoth the king) take him, and well use him, as hee is worthy to bee, and make no more adoe. And with that, every man caught him by the hand, and made faire weather of altogether, which might easilie be done with that man," STEEVENS.

Ha !

Ha!—I have said.—Be gone.

What!— [Exeunt Lovel, and Denny.

Cran. I am fearful :—Wherefore frowns he thus ?
'Tis his aspect of terror. All's not well.

King. How now, my lord ? You do desire to know
Wherefore I sent for you.

Cran. It is my duty,
To attend your highness' pleasure.

King. Pray you, arise,
My good and gracious lord of Canterbury.
Come, you and I must walk a turn together ;
I have news to tell you : Come, come, give me your
hand.

Ah, my good lord, I grieve at what I speak,
And am right sorry to repeat what follows :
I have, and most unwillingly, of late
Heard many grievous, I do say, my lord,
Grievous complaints of you ; which, being consider'd,
Have mov'd us and our council, that you shall
This morning come before us ; where, I know,
You cannot with such freedom purge yourself,
But that, 'till further trial, in those charges
Which will require your answer, you must take
Your patience to you, and be well contented
To make your house our Tower : ' You a brother of
us,

It fits we thus proceed, or else no witness
Would come against you.

Cran. I humbly thank your highness ;
And am right glad to catch this good occasion
Most thoroughly to be winnow'd, where my chaff
And corn shall fly asunder : for, I know,
There's none stands under more calumnious tongues,

³ ——— You a brother of us,] You being one of the council,
it is necessary to imprison you, that the witnesses against you may
not be deterred. JOHNSON.

Than I myself, poor man⁶.

King. Stand up, good Canterbury ;
Thy truth, and thy integrity, is rooted
In us, thy friend : Give me thy hand, stand up ;
Pr'ythee, let's walk. Now, by my holy-dame,
What manner of man are you ? My lord, I look'd
You would have given me your petition, that
I should have ta'en some pains to bring together
Yourself and your accusers ; and to have heard you,
Without indurance, further.

Cran. Most dread liege,
⁷ The good I stand on is my truth, and honesty ;
If they shall fail, I, with mine enemies,
Will triumph o'er my person ; which I weigh not,
Being of those virtues vacant. I fear nothing
What can be said against me.

King. Know you not
How your state stands i' the world, with the whole
world ?
Your enemies are many, and not small ; their prac-
tices

Must bear the same proportion : and not ever
The justice and the truth o' the question carries
The due o' the verdict with it : At what ease
Might corrupt minds procure knaves as corrupt
To swear against you ? such things have been done.
You are potently oppos'd ; and with a malice
Of as great size. Ween you of better luck⁸,
I mean, in perjur'd witness, than your master,
Whose minister you are, whiles here he liv'd

⁶ *Than I myself, poor man.*] *Poor man* probably belongs to the king's reply. JOHNSON.

⁷ *The good I stand on*—] Though *good* may be taken for *advantage* or *superiority*, or any thing which may help or support, yet it would, I think, be more natural to say :

The ground I stand on—— JOHNSON.

⁸ *Ween you of better luck,*] To *ween* is to *think*, to *imagine*. Though now obsolete, the word was common to all our ancient writers. STEEVENS.

Upon this naughty earth? Go to, go to;
 You take a precipice for no leap of danger,
 And woo your own destruction.

Cran. God, and your majesty,
 Protect mine innocence, or I fall into
 The trap is laid for me!

King. Be of good cheer;
 They shall no more prevail, than we give way to.
 Keep comfort to you; and this morning see
 You do appear before them: if they shall chance,
 In charging you with matters, to commit you,
 The best persuasions to the contrary
 Fail not to use, and with what vehemency
 The occasion shall instruct you: if entreaties
 Will render you no remedy, this ring
 Deliver them, and your appeal to us
 There make before them.—Look, the good man
 weeps!

He's honest, on mine honour. God's blest mother!
 I swear, he is true-hearted; and a soul
 None better in my kingdom.—Get you gone,
 And do as I have bid you.—He has strangled
 His language in his tears. [Exit Cranmer.]

Enter an old Lady.

Gen. [within.] Come back; What mean you?

Lady. I'll not come back; the tidings that I bring
 Will make my boldness manners.—Now, good angels
 Fly o'er thy royal head, and shade thy person
 Under their blessed wings!

King. Now, by thy looks
 I guess thy message. Is the queen deliver'd?
 Say, ay; and of a boy.

Lady. Ay, ay, my liege;
 And of a lovely boy: The God of heaven
 Both now and ever⁹ blest her!—'tis a girl,

⁹ ——— blest her! ———] It is doubtful whether *her* is referred
 to the queen or the girl. JOHNSON.

Pro-

Promises boys hereafter. Sir, your queen
Desires your visitation, and to be
Acquainted with this stranger; 'tis as like you,
As cherry is to cherry.

King. Lovel^s,—

Enter Lovel.

Lov. Sir.

King. Give her an hundred marks. I'll to the
queen. [*Exit King.*

Lady. An hundred marks! By this light, I'll have
more.

An ordinary groom is for such payment.
I will have more or scold it out of him.
Said I for this, the girl was like to him?
I will have more, or else unsay't; and now,
While it is hot, I'll put it to the issue. [*Exeunt.*

SCENE II.

Before the Council-Chamber.

Cranmer, Servants, Door-keeper &c. attending.

Cran. I hope, I am not too late; and yet the gen-
tleman,
That was sent to me from the council, pray'd me
To make great haste. All fast? what means this?—
Ho!

Who waits there?—Sure, you know me?

D. Keep. Yes, my lord;
But yet I cannot help you.

Cran. Why?

D. Keep. Your grace must wait, 'till you be call'd
for.

* *Lovel,*—] Lovel has been just sent out of the presence,
and no notice is given of his return: I have placed it here at the
instant when the king calls for him. STEEVENS.

Enter

Enter Doctor Butts.

Cran. So.—

Butts. This is a piece of malice. I am glad,
I came this way so happily : The king
Shall understand it presently. [*Exit Butts.*]

Cran. [*Aside.*] 'Tis Butts,
The king's physician ; As he past along,
How earnestly he cast his eyes upon me !
Pray heaven he found not my disgrace ! For certain,
This is of purpose lay'd, by some that hate me,
(God turn their hearts ! I never fought their malice)
To quench mine honour : they would shame to make
me

Wait else at door ; a fellow counsellor,
Among boys, grooms, and lackeys. But their pleasures
Must be fulfill'd, and I attend with patience.

Enter the King, and Butts, at a window above.

Butts. I'll shew your grace the strangest sight,—

King. What's that, Butts ?

Butts. I think, your highness saw this many a day.

King. Body o' me, where is it ?

Butts. There, my lord :

The high promotion of his grace of Canterbury ;
Who holds his state at door, 'mongst pursuivants,
Pages, and foot-boys.

King. Ha ! 'Tis he, indeed :

Is this the honour they do one another ?

'Tis well, there's one above 'em yet. I had thought,
They had parted so much honesty among 'em,
(At least, good manners) as not thus to suffer
A man of his place, and so near our favour,
To dance attendance on their lordships' pleasures,
And at the door too, like a post with packets.
By holy Mary, Butts, there's knavery :

Let

Let 'em alone, and draw the curtain close ;
We shall hear more anon.—

Enter the Lord Chancellor, places himself at the upper end of the table on the left hand ; a seat being left void above him, as for the Archbishop of Canterbury. Duke of Suffolk, Duke of Norfolk, Surrey, Lord Chamberlain, and Gardiner, seat themselves in order on each side. Cromwell at the lower end, as secretary.

¹ *Chan.* Speak to the business, master Secretary :
Why are we met in council ?

Crom. Please your honours,
The chief cause concerns his grace of Canterbury.

Gard. Has he had knowledge of it ?

Crom. Yes.

Nor. Who waits there ?

D. Keep. Without, my noble lords ?

Gard. Yes.

D. Keep. My lord archbishop ;
And has done half an hour, to know your pleasures.
Chan. Let him come in.

D. Keep. Your grace may enter now.

[Cranmer approaches the council table.]

Chan. My good lord archbishop, I am very sorry
To sit here at this present, and behold

¹ *Chan. Speak to the business,—*] This lord chancellor, though a character, has hitherto had no place in the *Dramatis Personæ*. In the last scene of the fourth act, we heard that sir Thomas More was appointed lord chancellor : but it is not he, whom the poet here introduces. Wolsey, by command, delivered up the seals on the 18th of November, 1529 ; on the 25th of the same month, they were delivered to sir Thomas More, who surrendered them on the 16th of May, 1532. Now the conclusion of this scene taking notice of queen Elizabeth's birth, (which brings it down to the year 1534) sir Thomas Audley must necessarily be our poet's chancellor ; who succeeded sir Thomas More, and held the seals many years. THEOBALD.

That chair stand empty : But ² we all are men,
 In our own natures frail ; and capable
 Of our flesh, few are angels : out of which frailty,
 And want of wisdom, you, that best should teach us,
 Have misdemean'd yourself, and not a little,
 Toward the king first, then his laws, in filling
 The whole realm, by your teaching, and your chap-
 lains',

(For so we are inform'd) with new opinions,
 Divers, and dangerous ; which are heresies,
 And, not reform'd, may prove pernicious.

Gard. Which reformation must be sudden too,
 My noble lords : for those, that tame wild horses,
 Pace 'em not in their hands to make 'em gentle ;

² ——— *we are all men*
In our own natures frail, and capable
Of frailty, ———]

If all men were actually frail, they were more than capable of frailty ; to understand this therefore, as only said of the natural weakness of humanity, it is absurdly expressed ; but this was not our authour's sense : By *in our own natures frail*, he alludes to the doctrine of original sin : so that the sentiment is this, We are sinners by imputation, and liable to become actually so.

WARBURTON.

This sentence, I think, needed no commentary. The meaning, and the plain meaning, is, *we are men frail by nature, and therefore liable to acts of frailty*, to deviations from the right. I wish every commentator, before he suffers his confidence to kindle, would repeat :

——— *we are all men*
In our own natures frail, and capable
Of frailty ; few are angels. JOHNSON.

There are no such words as those which either commentator has been ambitious to explain. The first and only ancient copy reads :

——— *and capable*
 Of our flesh, *few are angels* : ———

If this passage means any thing, it may mean, *few are perfect, while they remain in their mortal capacity.*

Shakespeare uses the word *capable* as perversely in *K. Lear* :

——— *and of my land,*
 Loyal and natural boy, I'll work the mean
 To make thee *capable.* STEEVENS.

But

KING HENRY VIII. 307

But stop their mouths with stubborn bits, and spur
'em,

'Till they obey the manage. If we suffer
(Out of our easiness, and childish pity
To one man's honour) this contagious sickness,
Farewel all physick : And what follows then ?
Commotions, uproars, with a general taint
Of the whole state : as, of late days, our neighbours,
The upper Germany³, can dearly witness,
Yet freshly pitied in our memories.

Cran. My good lords, hitherto, in all the progress
Both of my life and office, I have labour'd,
And with no little study, that my teaching,
And the strong course of my authority,
Might go one way, and safely ; and the end
Was ever, to do well : nor is there living
(I speak it with a single heart, my lords)
A man, that more detests, more stirs against,
Both in his private conscience, and his place,
Defacers of a publick peace, than I do.
Pray heaven, the king may never find a heart
With less allegiance in it ! Men, that make
Envy, and crooked malice, nourishment,
Dare bite the best. I do beseech your lordships,
That, in this case of justice, my accusers,
Be what they will, may stand forth face to face,
And freely urge against me.

Suf. Nay, my lord,
That cannot be ; you are a counsellor,
And, by that virtue, no man dare accuse you.

Gard. My lord, because we have business of more
moment,
We will be short with you. 'Tis his highness' plea-
sure,
And our consent, for better trial of you,

³ *The upper Germany, &c.] Alluding to the heresy of Thomas Muntzer, which sprung up in Saxony in the years 1521 and 1522. GRAY.*

From hence you be committed to the Tower ;
Where, being but a private man again,
You shall know many dare accuse you boldly,
More than, I fear, you are provided for.

Cran. Ah, my good lord of Winchester, I thank
you,

You are always my good friend ; if your will pass,
I shall both find your lordship judge and juror,
You are so merciful : I see your end,
'Tis my undoing : Love, and meekness, lord,
Become a churchman better than ambition ;
Win straying souls with modesty again,
Cast none away. That I shall clear myself,
Lay all the weight ye can upon my patience,
I make as little doubt, as you do conscience
In doing daily wrongs. I could say more,
But reverence to your calling makes me modest.

Gard. My lord, my lord, you are a sectary,
That's the plain truth ; ⁴ your painted gloss discovers,
To men that understand you, words and weakness.

Crom. My lord of Winchester, you are a little,
By your good favour, too sharp ; men so noble,
However faulty, yet should find respect
For what they have been : 'tis a cruelty ⁵,
To load a falling man.

Gard. Good master Secretary,
I cry your honour mercy ; you may, worst
Of all this table, say so.

Crom. Why, my lord ?

Gard. Do not I know you for a favourer

⁴ ——— your painted gloss &c.] Those that understand you, under this painted gloss, this fair outside, discover your empty talk and your false reasoning. JOHNSON.

⁵ ——— 'tis a cruelty

To load a falling man.]

This sentiment had occurred before. The lord chamberlain checking the earl of Surrey for his reproaches to Wolsey, says :

——— O my lord,

Press not a falling man too far. STEEVENS.

Of this new sect ? ye are not found.

Crom. Not found ?

Gard. Not found, I say.

Crom. 'Would you were half so honest !

Men's prayers then would seek you, not their fears.

Gard. I shall remember this bold language.

Crom. Do :

Remember your bold life too.

Cham. This is too much ;

Forbear, for shame, my lords.

Gard. I have done.

Crom. And I.

Cham. Then thus for you, my lord,—It stands agreed,

I take it, by all voices, that forthwith

You be convey'd to the Tower a prisoner ;

There to remain, 'till the king's further pleasure

Be known unto us : Are you all agreed, lords ?

All. We are.

Cran. Is there no other way of mercy,

But I must needs to the Tower, my lords ?

Gard. What other

Would you expect ? You are strangely troublesome :

Let some o' the guard be ready there.

Enter Guard.

Cran. For me ?

Must I go like a traitor thither ?

Gard. Receive him,

And see him safe i' the Tower.

Cran. Stay, good my lords,

I have a little yet to say. Look there, my lords ;

By virtue of that ring, I take my cause

Out of the gripes of cruel men, and give it

To a most noble judge, the king my master.

Cham. This is the king's ring.

Suf. 'Tis no counterfeit.

Suf. 'Tis the right ring, by heaven : I told ye all,
When we first put this dangerous stone a rolling,
'Twould fall upon ourselves.

Nor. Do you think, my lords,
The king will suffer but the little finger
Of this man to be vex'd ?

Cham. 'Tis now too certain :
How much more is his life in value with him ?
'Would I were fairly out on't.

Crom. My mind gave me,
In seeking tales, and informations,
Against this man, (whose honesty the devil
And his disciples only envy at)
Ye blew the fire that burns ye : Now have at ye.

Enter King, frowning on them ; takes his seat.

Gard. Dread sovereign, how much are we bound
to heaven
In daily thanks, that gave us such a prince ;
Not only good and wise, but most religious :
One that, in all obedience, makes the church
The chief aim of his honour ; and, to strengthen
That holy duty, out of dear respect,
His royal self in judgment comes to hear
The cause betwixt her and this great offender.

King. You were ever good at sudden commen-
dations,
Bishop of Winchester. But know, I come not
To hear such flatteries now, and in my presence ;
They are too thin and base to hide offences.
To me you cannot reach : You play the spaniel,
And think with wagging of your tongue to win me ;
But, whatsoe'er thou tak'st me for, I am sure,
Thou hast a cruel nature, and a bloody.—
Good man, sit down. Now let me see the proudest

[To Cranmer,
He, that dares most, but wag his finger at thee :—

By

By all that's holy, he had better starve,
Than but once think this place becomes thee not.

Sur. May it please your grace,—

King. No, fir, it does not please me.

I had thought, I had men of some understanding
And wisdom, of my council; but I find none.
Was it discretion, lords, to let this man,
This good man, (few of you deserve that title)
This honest man, wait like a lowly foot-boy
At chamber door? and one as great as you are?
Why, what a shame was this? Did my commission
Bid ye so far forget yourselves? I gave ye
Power as he was a counsellor to try him,
Not as a groom: There's some of ye, I see,
More out of malice than integrity,
Would try him to the utmost, had ye mean;
Which ye shall never have, while I live.

Chan. Thus far,

My most dread sovereign, may it like your grace
To let my tongue excuse all. What was purpos'd,
Concerning his imprisonment, was rather
(If there be faith in men) meant for his trial,
And fair purgation to the world, than malice;
I am sure, in me.

King. Well, well, my lords, respect him;
Take him, and use him well, he's worthy of it.
I will say thus much for him, If a prince
May be beholden to a subject, I
Am, for his love and service, so to him.
Make me no more ado, but all embrace him;
Be friends, for shame, my lords.—My lord of Can-
terbury,

I have a suit which you must not deny me:
There is a fair young maid, that yet wants baptism;
You must be godfather, and answer for her.

Cran. The greatest monarch now alive may glory
In such an honour; How may I deserve it,
That am a poor and humble subject to you?

King. Come, come, my lord, 'you'd spare your spoons : you shall have Two noble partners with you ; the old dutchess of Norfolk,
And lady marquiss Dorset ; Will these please you ?—
Once more, my lord of Winchester, I charge you, Embrace, and love this man.

Gard. With a true heart,
And brother's love, I do it.

Cran. And let heaven

* —you'd spare your spoons :] It appears by this and another passage in the next scene, that the gossips gave spoons. JOHNSON.

It was the custom, long before the time of Shakespeare, for the sponsors at christenings, to offer gilt spoons as a present to the child. These spoons were called *apostle spoons*, because the figures of the apostles were carved on the tops of the handles. Such as were at once opulent and generous, gave the whole twelve ; those who were either more moderately rich or liberal, escaped at the expence of the four evangelists ; or even sometimes contented themselves with presenting one spoon only, which exhibited the figure of any saint, in honour of whom the child received its name.

Ben Jonson, in his *Bartholomew Fair*, mentions spoons of this kind : —“ and all this for the hope of a couple of *apostle spoons*, and a cup to eat caudle in.”

So, in Middleton's comedy of *A chaste Maid in Cheapside*, 1620 :

“ What has he given her ?—what is it, gossip ?

“ A faire high standing-cup, and two great

“ *Pofle spoons*, one of them gilt.—

“ Sure that was Judas with the red beard.”

Again :

“ E'en the same gossip 'twas that gave the *spoons*.”

Again, in sir W. D'avenant's comedy of *The Wits*, 1636 :

“ ——— my pendants, carcanets, and rings,

“ My christ'ning caudle-cup, and *spoons*,

“ Are dissolv'd into that lump.”

Again, in the *Maid in the Mill*, by B. and Fletcher :

“ Didst ask her name ?——

“ Yes, and who gave it her ;

“ And what they promis'd more, besides a *spoon*,

“ And what *apostles picture*.”

Again, in the *Noble Gentleman*, by the same authors :

“ I'll be a gossip, Bewford,

“ I have an odd *apostle spoon*.” STEEVENS.

Witness, how dear I hold this confirmation.

King. Good man, those joyful tears shew thy true heart.

The common voice, I see, is verify'd
Of thee, which says thus, *Do my lord of Canterbury
A shrewd turn, and he is your friend for ever.*—
Come, lords, we trifle time away; I long
To have this young one made a christian.
As I have made ye one, lords, one remain;
So I grow stronger, you more honour gain. [*Exeunt,*

SCENE III.

The Palace Yard.

Noise and tumult within: Enter Porter, and his Man.

Port. You'll leave your noise anon, ye rascals: Do you take the court for ⁷ Paris-garden? ye rude slaves, leave your gaping.

⁷ *Paris-garden?*] The bear-garden of that time. JOHNSON.
So, in Sir W. Davenant's *News from Plimouth*:

“ ——— do you take this mansion for Pict-hatch?

“ You would be suitors: yes, to a she-deer,

“ And keep your marriages in *Paris-garden*.”

Again, in Ben Jonson's *Execration on Vulcan*:

“ And cried, it was a threatning to the bears,

“ And that accursed ground the *Paris-garden*.”

The *Globe* theatre, in which Shakespeare was a performer, stood on the southern side of the river Thames, and was contiguous to this noted place of tumult and disorder. St. Mary Overy's church is not far from London Bridge, and almost opposite to Fishmongers' Hall. Winchester House was over-against Cole Harbour. *Paris-garden* was in a line with Bridewell, and the *Globe* playhouse faced Blackfryars, Fleetditch, or St. Paul's. It was a hexagonal building of stone or brick. Its roof was of rushes, with a flag on the top. See a South View of London, (as it appeared in 1599) published by T. Wood, in Bishop's Court, in Chancery-Lane, in 1771. STEEVENS.

Within.

Within. Good master porter, I belong to the larder.

Port. Belong to the gallows, and be hang'd, you rogue. Is this a place to roar in?—Fetch me a dozen crab-tree staves, and strong ones; ⁸ these are but switches to 'em.—I'll scratch your heads: You must be seeing christenings? Do you look for ale and cakes here, you rude rascals?

Man. Pray, sir, be patient ⁹; 'tis as much impossible

(Unless we sweep them from the door with cannons)
To scatter 'em, as 'tis to make 'em sleep
On May-day morning ¹; which will never be:
We may as well push against Paul's, as stir 'em.

Port. How got they in, and be hang'd?

Man. Alas, I know not; How gets the tide in?
As much as one found cudgel of four foot
(You see the poor remainder) could distribute,
I made no spare, sir.

Port. You did nothing, sir.

Man. I am not Sampson, nor ² sir Guy, nor Colbrand, to mow 'em down before me: but, if I spar'd any, that had a head to hit, either young or old, he or

³ —*these are but switches to 'em.*] To what, or whom? We should point it thus, *these are but switches.*—To 'em, i. e. *have at you*, as we now say. He says this as he turns upon the mob.

WARBURTON.

The present pointing seems to be right. JOHNSON.

⁹ *Pray, sir, be patient;*] Part of this scene in the old copy is printed as verse, and part as prose. Perhaps the whole, with the occasional addition and omission of a few harmless syllables, might be reduced into a loose kind of metre; but as I know not what advantage would be gained by making the experiment, I have left the whole as I found it. STEEVENS.

¹ *On May-day morning;*] It was anciently the custom for all ranks of people to go out a *Maying* on the first of May. It is on record that king Henry VIII. and queen Katharine partook of this diversion. STEEVENS.

² —*sir Guy, nor Colbrand,*] Of Guy of Warwick every one has heard. Colbrand was the Danish giant, whom Guy subdued at Winchester. Their combat is very elaborately described by Drayton in his *Polyolbion*. JOHNSON.

she,

the, cuckold or cuckold-maker, let me never hope to see a chine again; and that I would not for a cow, God save her.

Within. Do you hear, master Porter?

Port. I shall be with you presently, good master puppy,—Keep the door close, firrah.

Man. What would you have me do?

Port. What should you do, but knock 'em down by the dozens? Is this³ Morefields to muster in? or have we some strange Indian⁴ with the great tool come to court, the women so besiege us? Bless me, what a fry of fornication is at door! O' my christian conscience, this one christening will beget a thousand; here will be father, god-father, and all together.

Man. The spoons will be the bigger, fir. There is a fellow somewhat near the door, he⁵ should be a brasier by his face, for, o' my conscience, twenty of the dog-days now reign in's nose; all that stand about him are under the line, they need no other penance: That fire-drake did I hit three times on the

³ *Morefields to muster in?*] The train-bands of the city were exercised in Morefields. JOHNSON.

⁴ —*some strange Indian*] To what circumstance this refers, perhaps, cannot now be exactly known. A similar one occurs in *Ram-Alley, or Merry Tricks*, 1611:

“You shall see the strange nature of an outlandish beast

“Lately brought from the land of *Cataia*.”

Again, in *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, by Beaumont, Fletcher, and Shakespeare:

“The Bavian with long tail and eke long TOOL.”

COLLINS.

Fig. I. in the print of Morris-dancers, at the end of *King Henry IV.* has a bib which extends below the doublet; and its length might be calculated for the concealment of the phallic ob-scenity mentioned by Beaumont and Fletcher, of which perhaps the *Bavian fool* exhibited an occasional view for the diversion of our indelicate ancestors. TOLLET.

⁵ —*he should be a brasier by his face;*] A *brasier* signifies a man that manufactures bras, and a reservoir for charcoal occasionally heated to convey warmth. Both these senses are here understood.

JOHNSON.

head, and three times was his nose discharg'd against me ; he stands there, like a mortar-piece, to blow us. There was a haberdasher's wife of small wit near him, that rail'd upon me 'till her pink'd porringer fell off her head, for kindling such a combustion in the state. I miss'd the ⁶ meteor once, and hit that woman, who cry'd out, *clubs !* when I might see from far some forty truncheoners draw to her succour, which were ⁷ the hope of the strand, where she was quarter'd. They fell on ; I made good my place ; at length they came to the broomstaff with me, I defy'd 'em still ; when suddenly a file of boys behind 'em, loose shot, deliver'd such a shower of pebbles, that I was fain to draw mine honour in, and let 'em win the work : The devil was amongst 'em, I think, surely.

Port. These are the youths that thunder at a play-house, and fight for bitten apples⁸ ; that no audience, but

⁶ —*the meteor*] The fire-drake, the brasier. JOHNSON.

—*Fire-drake.* A *fire-drake* is both a serpent, anciently called a *brenning-drake*, or *dipsas*, and a name formerly given to a *Will o' the Wisp*, or *ignis fatuus*. So, in *Albertus Wallenstein*, 1640 :

“ Your wild irregular lust, which like those *firedrakes*

“ Misguiding nighted travellers, will lead you

“ Forth from the fair path, &c.”

Again, in Drayton's *Nymphidia* :

“ By the hissing of the snake,

“ The rustling of the *fire-drake*.”

Again, in *Cæsar and Pompey*, a tragedy, by Chapman, 1631 :

“ So have I seene a *fire-drake* glide along

“ Before a dying man, to point his grave,

“ And in it stick and hide.”

A *fire-drake* was likewise an artificial *firework*. So, in *Four Five Gallants*, by Middleton :

“ ——— but like *fire-drakes*,

“ Mounted a little, gave a crack, and fell.” STEEVENS.

⁷ —*the hope of the strand*,] Hanmer reads, *the forlorn hope*.

JOHNSON.

⁸ —*that thunder at a playhouse, and fight for bitten apples.*] The prices of seats for the vulgar in our ancient theatres were so very low, that we cannot wonder if they were filled with the tumultuous company described by Shakespeare in this scene. So, in the *Gul's Hornbook*, by Decker, 1609 :

“ Your

but⁹ the Tribulation of Tower-hill, or the limbs of Limehouse, their dear brothers, are able to endure.
I have

“ Your groundling and gallery commoner buys his sport by the penny.”

In *Wit without Money*, by B. and Fletcher, is the following mention of them :

“ —break in at plays like prentices, for *three a groat*, and crack nuts with the scholars in *penny rooms* again.”

Again, in the *Black Book*, 1604: *Sixpenny rooms* in playhouses are spoken of.

Again, in the *Bellman's Night-Walks*, by Decker, 1616 :

“ Pay thy *twopence* to a player in this gallery, thou may'st fit by a harlot.”

Again, in the Prologue to Beaumont and Fletcher's *Mad Lower* :

“ How many *twopences* you've stow'd to-day !”

The prices of the boxes indeed were greater.

Again, in the *Gul's Hornbook*, by Decker, 1609 : “—At a new playe you take up the *twelvepenny room* next the stage, because the lords and you may seeme to be haile fellow well met, &c.”

In *Wit without Money* :

“ And who extoll'd you in the *half-crown* boxes,

“ Where you might sit and muster all the beauties.”

and lastly, it appears from the induction to *Bartholomew Fair*, by Ben Jonson, that *tobacco* was smoked in the same place :

“ He looks like a fellow that I have seen accommodate gentlemen with *tobacco* at our theatres.”

And from B. and Fletcher's *Woman-Hater*, 1607, it should seem that *beer* was sold there : “ There is no poet acquainted with more shakings and quakings towards the latter end of his new play, when he's in that case that he stands peeping between the curtains so fearfully, that a *bottle of ale* cannot be opened, but he thinks somebody hisses.” STEEVENS.

⁹ —the Tribulation of Tower-hill, or the limbs of Limehouse,] I suspect the Tribulation to have been a puritanical meeting-house. The limbs of Limehouse, I do not understand. JOHNSON.

Dr. Johnson's conjecture may be countenanced by the following passage in “ *Magnificence*, a goodly interlude and a mery, devised and made by mayster Skelton, poet-laureate, lately deceasfyd.” Printed by John Rastel, fol. no date :

“ Some fall to foly them selfe for to spyll,

“ And some fall prechynge on *toure byll*.” STEEVENS.

Alliteration has given rise to many cant expressions, consisting of words *paired* together. Here we have cant names for the inhabitants of these places, who were notorious puritans, coined for the humour of the alliteration. In the mean time it must not be

318 KING HENRY VIII.

I have some of 'em in *Limbo Patrum*, and there they are like to dance these three days ; besides the ' running banquet of two beadles, that is to come.

Enter the Lord Chamberlain.

Cham. Mercy o' me, what a multitude are here ! They grow still too, from all parts they are coming, As if we kept a fair ! Where are these porters, These lazy knaves ?—Ye have made a fine hand, fellows.

There's a trim rabble let in : Are all these Your faithful friends o'the suburbs ? We shall have Great store of room, no doubt, left for the ladies, When they pass back from the christening.

Port. Please your honour,
We are but men ; and what so many may do,

be forgotten, that “ precious *limbs*” was a common phrase of contempt for the puritans. WARTON.

Limehouse was before the time of Shakespeare, and has continued to be ever since, the residence of those who furnish stores, sails, &c. for shipping. A great number of foreigners having been constantly employed in these manufactures (many of which were introduced from other countries) they assembled themselves under their several pastors, and a number of places of different worship were built in consequence of their respective associations. As they clashed in principles, they had frequent quarrels, and the place has ever since been famous for the variety of its sects, and the turbulence of its inhabitants. It is not improbable that Shakespeare wrote—the *limbs* of Limehouse.

A *limb* of the devil, is, however, a common vulgarism ; and in *A New Trick to cheat the Devil*, 1636, the same kind of expression occurs :

“ I am a puritan ; one that will eat no pork,

“ Doth use to shut his shop on Saturdays,

“ And open them on Sundays : a familist,

“ And one of the arch *limbs* of Belzebub.”

Again, in *Every Man out of his Humour* :

“ I cannot abide these *limbs* of fatten, or rather Satan, &c.”

STEEVENS.

² *running banquet of two beadles,*] A publick whipping.

JOHNSON.

Not

Not being torn a pieces, we have done :

An army cannot rule 'em.

Cham. As I live,

If the king blame me for't, I'll lay ye all
By the heels, and suddenly ; and on your heads
Clap round fines, for neglect : You are lazy knaves ;
And ' here ye lie baiting of bumbards, when
Ye should do service. Hark, the trumpets found ;
They are come already from the christening :
Go, break among the press, and find a way out
To let the troop pass fairly ; or I'll find
A Marshalsea, shall hold you play these two months.

Port. Make way there for the princess.

Man. You great fellow, stand close up, or I'll
make your head ake.

Port. You i'the camblet, get up o'the rail ; I'll
peck you o'er the pales else. [*Exeunt.*

S C E N E IV.

The Palace.

Enter Trumpets, sounding ; then two Aldermen, Lord Mayor, Garter, Cranmer, Duke of Norfolk with his Marshal's staff, Duke of Suffolk, two Noblemen bearing great standing bowels for the christening gifts ; then four Noblemen bearing a canopy, under which the Dutchess of Norfolk, godmother, bearing the child richly habited in a mantle, &c. Train borne by a Lady : then follows the Marchioness of Dorset, the other godmother, and ladies. The troop pass once about the stage, and Garter speaks.

² — here ye lie baiting of bumbards,] A bumbard is an ale-barrel ; to bait bumbards is to tipple, to lie at the spigot. JOHNSON.

It appears from a passage already quoted in a note on the *Tempest*, act II. sc. ii. out of Shirley's *Martyr'd Soldier*, 1638, that bumbards were the large vessels in which the beer was carried to soldiers upon duty. They resembled black jacks of leather. So, in *Woman's a Weathercock*, 1612 : " She looks like a black bumbard with a pint pot waiting upon it." STEEVENS.

Gart.

Gart. Heaven, from thy endless goodness, send prosperous life, long, and ever happy, to the high and mighty princeſs of England, Elizabeth !

Flouriſh. Enter King, and Train.

Cran. [*Kneeling.*] And to your royal grace, and the good queen,

My noble partners, and myſelf, thus pray ;—
All comfort, joy, in this moſt gracious lady,
Heaven ever laid up to make parents happy,
May hourly fall upon ye !

King. Thank you, good lord archbiſhop :
What is her name ?

Cran. Elizabeth.

King. Stand up, lord.— [*The King kiſſes the child.*
With this kiſs take my bleſſing : God protect thee !
Into whoſe hand I give thy life.

Cran. Amen.

King. My noble goſſips, ye have been too prodigal :
I thank ye heartily ; ſo ſhall this lady,
When ſhe has ſo much Engliſh.

Cran. Let me ſpeak, ſir,
For Heaven now bids me ; and the words I utter
Let none think flattery, for they'll find 'em truth.
This royal infant, (heaven ſtill move about her !)
Though in her cradle, yet now promiſes
Upon this land a thouſand thouſand bleſſings,
Which time ſhall bring to ripeneſs : She ſhall be
(But few now living can behold that goodneſs)
A pattern to all princes living with her,
And all that ſhall ſucceed : Sheba was never
More covetous of wiſdom, and fair virtue,
Than this pure ſoul ſhall be : all princely graces,
That mould up ſuch a mighty piece as this is,
With all the virtues that attend the good,
Shall ſtill be doubled on her : truth ſhall nurſe her,
Holy and heavenly thoughts ſtill counſel her :

She

She shall be lov'd, and fear'd : Her own shall bless
her ;

Her foes shake like a field of beaten corn,
And hang their heads with sorrow : Good grows with
her :

In her days, every man shall eat in safety³,
Under his own vine, what he plants ; and sing
The merry songs of peace to all his neighbours :
God shall be truly known ; and those about her
From her shall read the perfect way of honour,
And by those claim their greatness, not by blood.
[⁴ Nor shall this peace sleep with her : But as when
The bird of wonder dies, the maiden phoenix,
Her ashes new create another heir,
As great in admiration as herself ;
So shall she leave her blessedness to one,
(When heaven shall call her from this cloud of
darkness)

³ —*every man shall eat in safety,*] This part of the prophecy seems to have been burlesqued by B. and Fletcher in the *Beggar's Bush*, where orator Higgin is making his congratulatory speech to the new king of the beggars :

“ Each man shall eat his own stolen eggs, and butter,

“ In his own shade, or sunshine, &c.”

The original thought, however, is borrowed from the 4th chapter of the first book of *Kings* : “ Every man dwelt safely under his vine.” STEEVENS.

⁴ [*Nor shall this peace sleep with her : —*] These lines, to the interruption by the king, seem to have been inserted at some revival of the play, after the accession of king James. If the passage, included in crotchets, be left out, the speech of Cranmer proceeds in a regular tenour of prediction and continuity of sentiments ; but, by the interposition of the new lines, he first celebrates Elizabeth's successor, and then wishes he did not know that she was to die ; first rejoices at the consequence, and then laments the cause. Our authour was at once politick and idle ; he resolved to flatter James, but neglected to reduce the whole speech to propriety, or perhaps intended that the lines inserted should be spoken in the action, and omitted in the publication, if any publication ever was in his thoughts. Mr. Theobald has made the same observation. JOHNSON.

Who, from the sacred ashes of her honour,
 Shall star-like rise, as great in fame as she was,
 And so stand fix'd : Peace, plenty, love, truth, terror,
 That were the servants to this chosen infant,
 Shall then be his, and like a vine grow to him ;
 Wherever the bright sun of heaven shall shine,
 His honour, and the greatness of his name
 Shall be, and make new nations : He shall flourish,
 And, like a mountain cedar, reach his branches
 To all the plains about him :—Our children's children
 Shall see this, and bless heaven.

King. Thou speakest wonders.]

Cran. She shall be, to the happiness of England,
 An aged princess^s ; many days shall see her,
 And yet no day without a deed, to crown it.
 'Would I had known no more ! but she must die,
 She must, the saints must have her ; yet a virgin,
 A most unspotted lily shall she pass
 To the ground, and all the world shall mourn her.

King. O lord archbishop,
 Thou hast made me now a man ; never, before

^s *She shall be, to the happiness of England,
 An aged princess,]*

The transition here from the complimentary address to king James the first is so abrupt, that it seems obvious to me, that compliment was inserted after the accession of that prince. If this play was wrote, as in my opinion it was, in the reign of queen Elizabeth ; we may easily determine where Cranmer's eulogium of that princess concluded. I make no question but the poet rested here :

And claim by those their greatness, not by blood.

All that the bishop says after this, was an occasional homage paid to her successor ; and evidently inserted after her demise. How naturally, without this insertion, does the king's joy and satisfactory reflection upon the bishop's prophecy, come in !

King. Thou speakest wonders. O lord archbishop,
 Thou'st made me now a man. Never, before
 This happy child, did I get any thing, &c.

Whether the king would so properly have made this inference, upon hearing that a child of so great hopes should die without issue, is submitted to judgment. THEOBALD.

This

This happy child, did I get any thing :
 This oracle of comfort has so pleas'd me,
 That, when I am in heaven, I shall desire
 To see what this child does, and praise my Maker.—
 I thank ye all.—To you, my good lord mayor,
 ' And your good brethren, I am much beholden ;
 I have receiv'd much honour by your presence,
 And ye shall find me thankful. Lead the way, lords ;—
 Ye must all see the queen, and she must thank ye,
 She will be sick else. This day, no man think
 He has business at his house ; for all shall stay,
 This little one shall make it holiday. [Exeunt.]

* *And you good brethren,———*] But the *aldermen* were never called brethren to the king. The top of the nobility are but cousins and counsellors. Dr. Thirlby, therefore, rightly advised ;

And your good brethren———

i. e. the lord mayor's brethren ; which is properly their style.

THEOBALD.

THE play of *Henry the Eighth* is one of those, which still keeps possession of the stage, by the splendour of its pageantry. The coronation, about forty years ago drew the people together in multitudes for a great part of the winter. Yet pomp is not the only merit of this play. The meek sorrows and virtuous distress of Katharine have furnished some scenes, which may be justly numbered among the greatest efforts of tragedy. But the genius of Shakespeare comes in and goes out with Katharine. Every other part may be easily conceived and easily written. JOHNSON.

EPILOGUE.

'Tis ten to one, this play can never please
 All that are here : Some come to take their ease,
 And sleep an act or two ; but those, we fear,
 We have frighted with our trumpets ; so, 'tis clear,
 They'll say, 'tis naught : others, to hear the city
 Abus'd extremely, and to cry,—that's witty !
 Which we have not done neither : that, I fear,
 All the expected good we are like to hear
 For this play at this time, is only in
 The merciful construction of good women ;
 For such a one we shew'd 'em* : If they smile⁷,
 And say, 'twill do, I know, within a while
 All the best men are ours ; for 'tis ill hap,
 If they hold, when their ladies bid 'em clap.

* In the character of Katharine.

⁷ *If they smile, &c.*] This thought is too much hackney'd. It had been used already in the Epilogues to *As You Like It*, and the second part of *King Henry IV.* STEEVENS.

Though it is very difficult to decide whether short pieces be genuine or spurious, yet I cannot restrain myself from expressing my suspicion that neither the prologue nor epilogue to this play is the work of Shakespeare ; *non vultus, non color*. It appears to me very likely that they were supplied by the friendship or officiousness of Jonson, whose manner they will be perhaps found exactly to resemble. There is yet another supposition possible : the prologue and epilogue may have been written after Shakespeare's departure from the stage, upon some accidental revival of the play, and there will then be reason for imagining that the writer, whoever he was, intended no great kindness to him, this play being recommended by a subtle and covert censure of his other works. There is in Shakespeare so much of *fool and fight* :

—— the fellow

In a long motley coat, guarded with yellow,
 appears so often in his drama, that I think it not very likely that he would have animadverted so severely on himself. All this, however, must be received as very dubious, since we know not the exact date of this or the other plays, and cannot tell how our authour might have changed his practice or opinions.

JOHNSON.

I en-

I entirely agree in opinion with Dr. Johnson, that Ben Jonson wrote the *prologue and epilogue* to this play. Shakespeare had a little before assisted him in his *Sejanus*; and Ben was too proud to receive assistance without returning it. It is probable, that he drew up the directions for the parade at the *christening*, &c. which his employment at court would teach him, and Shakespeare must be ignorant of: I think, I now and then perceive his hand in the dialogue.

It appears from *Stowe*, that Robert Green wrote somewhat on this subject. FARMER.

In support of Dr. Johnson's opinion, it may not be amiss to quote the following lines from old Ben's prologue to his *Every Man in his Humour*:

"To make a child now swaddled, to proceed
 "Man, and then shoot up, in one beard and weed,
 "Past threescore years: or with three rusty swords,
 "And help of some few foot-and-half-foot swords,
 "Fight over York and Lancaster's long wars,
 "And in the tiring-house, &c." STEEVENS.

THE historical dramas are now concluded, of which the two parts of *Henry the Fourth*, and *Henry the Fifth*, are among the happiest of our author's compositions; and *King John*, *Richard the Third*, and *Henry the Eighth*, deservedly stand in the second class. Those whose curiosity would refer the historical scenes to their original, may consult Holinshed, and sometimes Hall: from Holinshed Shakespeare has often inserted whole speeches with no more alteration than was necessary to the numbers of his verse. To transcribe them into the margin was unnecessary, because the original is easily examined, and they are seldom less perspicuous in the poet than in the historian.

To play histories, or to exhibit a succession of events by action and dialogue, was a common entertainment among our rude ancestors upon great festivities. The parish clerks once performed at Clerkenwell a play which lasted three days, containing *The History of the World*. JOHNSON.

It appears from more than one MS. in the British Museum, that the tradesmen of Chester were *three days* employed in the representation of their twenty-four Whitsun plays or mysteries. The like performances at Coventry must have taken up a longer time, as they are no less than forty in number. The exhibition of them began on *Corpus Christi* day, which was, (according to Dugdale) one of their ancient fairs. See the *Harleian MSS.* No. 2013, 2124, 2125, and *MS. Cott. Vesp. D. VIII.* and *Dugdale's Warwickshire*, p. 116. STEEVENS.



CORIO LANUS.

Y 4

PER-

Persons Represented.

Caius Marcius Coriolanus, *a noble Roman.*

Titus Lartius, }
Cominius, } *Generals against the Volscians.*

Menenius Agrippa, *friend to Coriolanus.*

Sicinius Velutus, }
Junius Brutus, } *Tribunes of the People.*

Tullus Aufidius, *General of the Volscians.*

Lieutenant to Aufidius.

Young Marcius, Son to Coriolanus.

Conspirators with Aufidius.

Volumnia, *Mother to Coriolanus.*

Virgilia, *Wife to Coriolanus.*

Valeria, *Friend to Virgilia.*

*Roman and Volscian Senators, Ædiles, Liētors, Soldiers,
Common People, Servants to Aufidius, and other
Attendants.*

*The SCENE is partly in Rome ; and partly in the
Territories of the Volscians and Antiates.*

The whole history is exactly followed, and many of the principal speeches exactly copied from the *Life of Coriolanus* in *Plutarch.* POPE.

Of this play there is no edition before that of the players, in folio, in 1623. JOHNSON.

CORIO-

C O R I O L A N U S.

A C T I. S C E N E I.

A Street in Rome.

Enter a company of mutinous Citizens, with staves, clubs, and other weapons.

1 *Cit.* Before we proceed any further, hear me speak.

All. Speak, speak.

1 *Cit.* You are resolv'd rather to die, than to famish?

All. Resolv'd, resolv'd.

1 *Cit.* First, you know, Caius Marcius is chief enemy to the people.

All. We know't, we know't.

1 *Cit.* Let us kill him, and we'll have corn at our own price. Is't a verdict?

All. No more talking on't; let it be done: away, away.

2 *Cit.* One word, good citizens.

1 *Cit.* We are accounted poor citizens; the patricians, good: What authority surfeits on, would re-

1 *One word, good citizens.*

1 *Cit.* We are accounted *poor* citizens; the patricians, *good*.] *Good* is here used in the mercantile sense. So, *Touchstone* in *Eastward Hoe*:

"—known *good* men, well monied." FARMER.
Again, in the *Merchant of Venice*:

"Antonio's a *good* man." MALONE.

lieve

lieve us : If they would yield us but the superfluity, while it were wholesome, we might grieve, they relieved us humanely : ² but they think, we are too dear : the leanness that afflicts us, the object of our misery, is as an inventory to particularize their abundance ; our sufferance is a gain to them.—³ Let us revenge this with our pikes, ⁴ ere we become rakes :

² *but they think, we are too dear :*] They think that the charge of maintaining us is more than we are worth. JOHNSON.

³ *Let us revenge this with our pikes, ere we become rakes :*] It was Shakespeare's design to make this fellow quibble all the way. But time, who has done greater things, has here stifled a miserable joke ; which was then the same as if it had been now wrote, *Let us now revenge this with forks, ere we become rakes :* for *pikes* then signified the same as *forks* do now. So Jewel in his own translation of his *Apology*, turns *Christianos ad furcas condemnare, to—To condemn Christians to the pikes*. But the Oxford editor, without knowing any thing of this, has with great sagacity found out the joke, and reads on his own authority, *pitch-forks*.

WARBURTON.

⁴ *ere we become rakes :*] It is plain that, in our author's time, we had the proverb, *as lean as a rake*. Of this proverb the original is obscure. *Rake* now signifies a *dissolute man*, a man worn out with disease and debauchery. But the signification is, I think, much more modern than the proverb. *Rackel*, in Islandick, is said to mean a *cur-dog*, and this was probably the first use among us of the word *rake* ; *as lean as a rake* is, therefore, as lean as a dog too worthless to be fed. JOHNSON.

It may be so : and yet I believe the proverb, *as lean as a rake*, owes its origin simply to the thin taper form of the instrument made use of by hay-makers. Chaucer has this simile in his description of the *clerk's* horse in the prologue to the *Canterbury Tales*, late edit. v. 288 :

“ As lene was his hors as is a rake.”

Spenser introduces it in the second book of his *Faery Queen*, Canto II :

“ His body lean and meagre as a rake.”

As thin as a whipping-post, is another proverb of the same kind.

Stanyhurst, in his translation of the third book of *Virgil*, 1582, describing Achæmenides, says :

“ A meigre leane rake, &c.”

This passage seems to countenance Dr. Johnson's supposition.

STEEVENS.

for the gods know, I speak this in hunger for bread, not in thirst for revenge.

2 *Cit.* Would you proceed especially against Caius Marcius?

All. Against him first; he's a very dog to the commonalty.

2 *Cit.* Consider you what services he has done for his country?

1 *Cit.* Very well; and could be content to give him good report for't, but that he pays himself with being proud.

All. Nay, but speak not maliciously.

1 *Cit.* I say unto you, what he hath done famously, he did it to that end: though soft-conscienc'd men can be content to say, it was for his country, he did it to please his mother, and to be partly proud; which he is, even to the altitude of his virtue.

2 *Cit.* What he cannot help in his nature, you account a vice in him: You must in no way say, he is covetous.

1 *Cit.* If I must not, I need not be barren of accusations; he hath faults, with surplus, to tire in repetition. [*Shouts within.*] What shouts are these? The other side o'the city is risen: Why stay we prating here? to the Capitol.

All. Come, come.

1 *Cit.* Soft; who comes here?

Enter Menenius Agrippa.

2 *Cit.* Worthy Menenius Agrippa; one that hath always lov'd the people.

1 *Cit.* He's one honest enough; 'Would, all the rest were so!

Men. What work's, my countrymen, in hand?

Where go you

With bats and clubs? The matter? Speak, I pray you.

2 *Cit.*

2 *Cit.* Our business is not unknown to the senate ; they have had inkling, this fortnight, what we intend to do, which now we'll shew 'em in deeds. They say, poor suiters have strong breaths ; they shall know, we have strong arms too.

Men. Why, masters, my good friends, mine honest neighbours,

Will you undo yourselves ?

2 *Cit.* We cannot, sir, we are undone already.

Men. I tell you, friends, most charitable care Have the patricians of you. For your wants, Your suffering in this dearth, you may as well Strike at the heaven with your staves, as lift them Against the Roman state ; whose course will on The way it takes, cracking ten thousand curbs Of more strong link asunder, than can ever Appear in your impediment : For the dearth, The gods, not the patricians, make it ; and Your knees to them, not arms, must help. Alack, You are transported by calamity Thither where more attends you ; and you slander The helms o'the state, who care for you like fathers, When you curse them as enemies.

2 *Cit.* Care for us !—True, indeed !—They ne'er car'd for us yet. Suffer us to famish, and their store-houses cramm'd with grain ; make edicts for usury, to support usurers : repeal daily any wholesome act established against the rich ; and provide more piercing statutes daily, to chain up and restrain the poor. If the wars eat us not up, they will ; and there's all the love they bear us.

Men. Either you must Confess yourselves wond'rous malicious, Or be accus'd of folly. I shall tell you A pretty tale ; it may be, you have heard it ; But, since it serves my purpose^s, I will venture

To

^s ————— I will venture
To scale't a little more.]

Thus

To *scale*'t a little more.

2 *Cit.* Well, I'll hear it, sir : yet you must not

Thus all the editions, as Mr. Theobald confesses, who alters it to *scale*'t. And for a good reason, *because he can find no sense* (he says) *in the common reading*. For as good a reason, I, who can, have restored the old one to its place. To *scale*'t signifying to weigh, examine, and apply it. The author uses it again, in the same sense, in this very play :

Scaling his present bearing with his past.

And so, Fletcher, in *The Maid of the Mill* :

"What *scale* my invention before hand? you shall pardon me for that." WARBURTON.

Neither of Dr. Warburton's examples afford a sense congruous to the present occasion. In the passage quoted, to *scale* may be to weigh and compare, but where do we find that *scale* is to apply? If we *scale* the two criticks, I think Theobald has the advantage.

JOHNSON.

To *scale* is to *disperse*. The word is still used in the North. If emendation were at all necessary, Theobald's is as good a one as could be proposed. The sense of the old reading is, Though some of you have heard the story, I will spread it yet wider, and diffuse it among the rest.

A measure of wine spilt, is called—"a *scal'd* pottle of wine" in Decker's comedy of *The Honest Whore*, 1635. So, in *The Historie of Clyomon, Knight of the Golden Shield*, &c. a play published in 1599 :

"The hugie heapes of cares that lodged in my minde

"Are *skaled* from their nestling place, and pleasures passing find."

Again, in Decker's *Honest Whore*, already quoted :

"——— Cut off his beard.———"

"Fye, fye ; idle, idle ; he's no Frenchman, to fret at the loss of a little *scal'd* hair." In the North they say *scale* the corn, *i. e.* scatter it : *scale* the muck well, *i. e.* spread the dung well. The two foregoing instances are taken from Mr. Lambe's notes on the old metrical history of *Floddon Field*.

Again, *Holinshed*, vol. ii. p. 499, speaking of the retreat of the Welchmen during the absence of Richard II. says : "—they would no longer abide, but *sealed* and departed away." So again, p. 530 : "—whereupon their troops *sealed*, and fled their waies." In the Glossary to Gawin Douglas's Translation of *Virgil*, the following account of the word is given. *Skail, skale*, to scatter, to spread, perhaps from the Fr. *escheweler*, Ital. *scapigliare*, crines passos, seu sparsos habere. All from the Latin *capillus*. Thus *escheweler, schewel, skail* ; but of a more general signification.

STEEVENS.

think

think to fob off our ⁶disgrace with a tale : but, an't please you, deliver.

Men. There was a time, when all the body's members

Rebell'd against the belly ; thus accus'd it :—

That only like a gulf it did remain

I' the midst o' the body, idle and unactive,

Still cupboarding the viand, never bearing

Like labour with the rest ; ⁷ where the other instruments

Did see, and hear, devise, instruct, walk, feel,

And mutually participate, did minister

Unto the appetite and affection common

Of the whole body. The belly answer'd,—

² *Cit.* Well, sir, what answer made the belly ?

Men. Sir, I shall tell you.—With a kind of smile,

³ Which ne'er came from the lungs, but even thus,

(For, look you, I may make the belly smile,

As well as speak) it tauntingly reply'd

To the discontented members, the mutinous parts

That envy'd his receipt ; ⁹ even so most fitly

As you malign our senators, for that

They are not such as you.

² *Cit.* Your belly's answer : What !

The kingly-crowned head, the vigilant eye,

¹ The counsellor heart, the arm our soldier,

Our steed the leg, the tongue our trumpeter,

With other muniments and petty helps

In this our fabrick, if that they——

⁶ ——disgrace with a tale :] *Disgraces are hardships, injuries.*

JOHNSON.

⁷ ——where the other instruments] *Where for whereas.*

JOHNSON.

⁸ Which ne'er came from the lungs,——] With a smile not indicating pleasure, but contempt. JOHNSON.

⁹ ——even so most fitly,] i. e. exactly. WARBURTON.

¹ The counsellor heart,——] The heart was anciently esteemed the seat of prudence. *Homo cordatus* is a prudent man.

JOHNSON.

Men.

Men. What then?—

'Fore me, this fellow speaks!—what then? what then?

2 Cit. Should by the cormorant belly be restrain'd,
Who is the sink o' the body,—

Men. Well, what then?

2 Cit. The former agents, if they did complain,
What could the belly answer?

Men. I will tell you;

If you'll bestow a small (of what you have little)
Patience, a while, you'll hear the belly's answer.

2 Cit. You are long about it.

Men. Note me this, good friend;
Your most grave belly was deliberate,
Not rash like his accusers, and thus answer'd.
*True is it, my incorporate friends, quoth he,
That I receive the general food at first,
Which you do live upon: and fit it is;
Because I am the store-house, and the shop
Of the whole body: But, if you do remember,
I send it through the rivers of your blood,
Even to the court, the heart, to the seat o' the brain²;
And, through the cranks and offices of man,
The strongest nerves, and small inferior veins,
From me receive that natural competency
Whereby they live: And though that all at once,
You, my good friends, (this says the belly) mark
me,—*

² *To th' seat o' the brain;—*] seems to me a very languid expression. I believe we should read, with the omission of a particle;

Even to the court, the heart, to the seat, the brain.

He uses *seat* for *throne*, the *royal seat*, which the first editors probably not apprehending, corrupted the passage. It is thus used in *Richard II.* act III. sc. iv:

“Yea, distaff-women manage rusty bills

“Against thy *seat*.”——

It should be observed too, that one of the *Citizens* had just before characterised these principal parts of the human fabrick by similar metaphors:

The *kingly-crowned head*, the vigilant eye,

The *counsellor heart*.—— TYRWHITT.

2 Cit.

2 *Cit.* Ay, fir; well, well.

Men. Though all at once cannot
See what I do deliver out to each;
Yet I can make my audit up, that all
From me do back receive the flower of all,
And leave me but the bran. What say you to't?

2 *Cit.* It was an answer: How apply you this?

Men. The senators of Rome are this good belly,
And you the mutinous members: For examine
Their counsels, and their cares; digest things rightly,
Touching the weal o' the common; you shall find,
No publick benefit, which you receive,
But it proceeds, or comes, from them to you,
And no way from yourselves.—What do you think?
You, the great toe of this assembly?—

2 *Cit.* I the great toe? Why the great toe?

Men. For that, being one o' the lowest, basest,
poorest,

Of this most wise rebellion, thou go'st foremost:

3 Thou rascal, that art worst in blood, to run
Lead'st first, to win some vantage.—

But make you ready your stiff bats and clubs;
Rome and her rats are at the point of battle,

3 *Thou rascal, that art worst in blood, to run
Lead'st first, to win some vantage.—*]

I think, we may better read, by an easy change,
*Thou rascal that art worst, in blood, to ruin
Lead'st first, to win, &c.*

Thou that art the meanest by birth, art the foremost to lead thy fellows to ruin, in hope of some advantage. The meaning, however, is perhaps only this, Thou that art a hound, or running dog of the lowest breed, lead'st the pack, when any thing is to be gotten. JOHNSON.

Worst in blood may be the true reading. In *K. Henry VI. P. I.*:

“If we bee English deer, be then *in blood*,”

i. e. high spirits.

Again, in this play of *Coriolanus*, act IV. sc. v. “But when they shall see his crest up again, and the man *in blood*, &c.” STEEVENS.

To win some vantage, is to get the start, or to begin the chace before another dog. TOLLET.

The

* The one side must have bale.—Hail, noble Mar-
cius !

Enter Caius Marcius.

Mar. Thanks.—What's the matter, you dissentious
rogues,

That, rubbing the poor itch of your opinion,
Make yourselves scabs ?

2 Cit. We have ever your good word.

Mar. He that will give good words to thee, will
flatter

Beneath abhorring.—What would have, you curs,

5 That like nor peace, nor war ? the one affrights
you,

The

* *The one side must have bale.*—] *Bale* is an old Saxon word, for
misery or calamity.

“ For light she hated as the deadly *bale*.”

Spenser's Fairy Queen.

STEEVENS.

5 *That like nor peace, nor war ? The one affrights you,*

The other makes you proud——]

That they did not like war is evident from the reason assigned, of
its *frighting* them ; but why they should not like peace (and the
reason of that too is assigned) will be very hard to conceive.
Peace, he says, made them *proud*, by bringing with it an increase
of wealth and power, for those are what make a people proud ;
but then those are what they *like* but too well, and so must needs
like peace the parent of them. This being contrary to what the
text says, we may be assured it is corrupt, and that Shakespeare
wrote :

That likes not peace, nor war ?——

i. e. whom neither peace nor war fits or agrees with, as making
them either proud or cowardly. By this reading, *peace* and *war*,
from being the accusatives to *likes*, become the nominatives. But
the editors not understanding this construction, and seeing *likes* a
verb singular, to *curs* a noun plural, which they supposed the no-
minative to it, would, in order to shew their skill in grammar, al-
ter it to *like* ; but *likes* for *pleases* was common with the writers of
this time. So Fletcher's *Maid's Tragedy* :

“ *What look likes you best ?* ” WARBURTON.

That to *like* is to *please*, every one knows, but in that sense it

The other makes you proud. He that trusts to you,
 Where he should find you lions, finds you hares ;
 Where foxes, geese : You are no furer, no,
 Than is the coal of fire upon the ice,
 Or hailstone in the sun. ⁶ Your virtue is,
 To make him worthy, whose offence subdues him,
 And curse that justice did it. Who deserves great-
 ness,

Deserves your hate : and your affections are
 A sick man's appetite, who desires most that
 Which would increase his evil. He that depends
 Upon your favours, swims with fins of lead,
 And hews down oaks with rushes. Hang ye ! Trust
 ye ?

With every minute you do change a mind ;
 And call him noble, that was now your hate,
 Him vile, that was your garland. What's the mat-
 ter,

That in these several places of the city
 You cry against the noble senate, who,
 Under the gods, keep you in awe, which else
 Would feed on one another ?—What's their seek-
 ing ?

is as hard to say why peace should not *like* the people, as, in the other sense, why the people should not *like* peace. The truth is, that Coriolanus does not use the two sentences consequentially, but first reproaches them with unsteadiness, then with their other occasional vices. JOHNSON.

⁶ ——— *Your virtue is,
 To make him worthy, whose offence subdues him,
 And curse that justice did it.*———]

i.e. Your virtue is to speak well of him whom his own offences have subjected to justice ; and to rail at those laws by which he whom you praise was punished. STEEVENS.

⁷ *What's their seeking ?*] I believe Shakespeare wrote :

What is't they are seeking ?

which from the similarity of sound might easily have been confounded with the present text. Had *seeking* been used substantively, the answer would have been, not—*for* corn—but *corn*.

MALONE.

Men.

Men. For corn at their own rates ; whereof, they
say,

The city is well stor'd.

Mar. Hang 'em ! They say ?

They'll fit by the fire, and presume to know
What's done i' the Capitol : who's like to rise,
Who thrives, and who declines : side factions, and
give out

Conjectural marriages ; making parties strong,
And feebling such, as stand not in their liking,
Below their cobled shoes. They say, there's grain
enough ?

Would the nobility lay aside their ruth ⁸,
And let me use my sword, ⁹ I'd make a quarry
With thousands of these quarter'd slaves, as high
As I could pitch my lance ¹.

Men. Nay, these are almost thoroughly persuaded ;
For though abundantly they lack discretion,
Yet are they passing cowardly. But, I beseech you,
What says the other troop ?

Mar. They are dissolv'd : Hang 'em !
They said, they were an-hungry ; sigh'd forth pro-
verbs ;
That, hunger broke stone walls ; that, dogs must
eat ;—
That, meat was made for mouths ; that, the gods
sent not

⁸ — *their ruth,*] i. e. their pity, compassion. Fairfax and Spenser often use the word. STEEVENS.

⁹ — *I'd make a quarry
With thousands—*]

Why a quarry ? I suppose, not because he would pile them square, but because he would give them for carrion to the birds of prey.

JOHNSON.

So, in the *Miracles of Moses*, by Drayton :

“ And like a quarry cast them on the land.” STEEVENS.

¹ — *pitch my lance.*] The old copy reads—*picke* my lance : and so the word is still pronounced in Staffordshire, where they say—*picke* me such a thing, that is, throw any thing that the demander wants. TOLLET.

Corn for the rich men only :—With these shreds
They vented their complainings ; which being an-
swer'd,

And a petition granted them, a strange one,
(To break ² the heart of generosity,
And make bold power look pale) they threw their caps
As they would hang them on the horns o'the moon,
Shouting their emulation.

Men. What is granted them ?

Mar. Five tribunes, to defend their vulgar wis-
doms,

Of their own choice : One's Junius Brutus,
Sicinius Velutus, and I know not——s' death !
The rabble should have first unroof'd the city,
Ere so prevail'd with me : it will in time
Win upon power, and throw forth greater themes
For insurrection's arguing.

Men. This is strange.

Mar. Go, get you home, you fragments !

Enter a Messenger.

Mes. Where's Caius Marcius ?

Mar. Here : What's the matter ?

Mes. The news is, fir, the Volces are in arms.

Mar. I am glad on't ; then we shall have means to
vent

Our musty superfluity :—See, our best elders.

*Enter Cominius, Titus Lartius, with other Senators ;
Junius Brutus, and Sicinius Velutus.*

1 Sen. Marcius, ³ 'tis true, that you have lately
told us ;

The

² ——the heart of generosity,] To give the final blow to the
nobles. Generosity is high birth. JOHNSON.

³ 'tis true, that you have lately told us ;
The Volces are in arms.]

Corio-

The Volces are in arms.

Mar. They have a leader,
Tullus Aufidius, that will put you to't.
I sin in envying his nobility :
And were I any thing but what I am,
I would wish me only he.

Com. You have fought together.

Mar. Were half to half the world by the ears,
and he

Upon my party, I'd revolt, to make
Only my wars with him : He is a lion
That I am proud to hunt.

i Sen. Then, worthy Marcius,
Attend upon Cominius to these wars.

Com. It is your former promise.

Mar. Sir, it is ;

And I am constant.—Titus Lartius, thou
Shalt see me once more strike at Tullus' face :
What, art thou stiff ? stand'st out ?

Tit. No, Caius Marcius ;
I'll lean upon one crutch, and fight with the other,
Ere stay behind this business.

Men. O, true bred !

i Sen. Your company to the Capitol ; where, I
know,
Our greatest friends attend us.

Tit. Lead you on :—
Follow, Cominius ; we must follow you ;
Right worthy you priority.

Com. Noble Lartius !

i Sen. Hence ! To your homes, be gone,
[To the Citizens.]

Mar. Nay, let them follow :
The Volces have much corn ; take these rats thither,

Coriolanus had been but just told himself that the Volces were in arms. The meaning is, The intelligence which you gave us some little time ago of the designs of the Volces are now verified ; they are in arms. JOHNSON.

To gnaw their garners :—Worshipful mutineers,
 † Your valour puts well forth : pray, follow.—

[*Exeunt.*]

Citizens steal away. Manent Sicinius, and Brutus.

Sic. Was ever man so proud as is this Marcius ?

Bru. He has no equal.

Sic. When we were chosen tribunes for the people,—

Bru. Mark'd you his lip, and eyes ?

Sic. Nay, but his taunts.

Bru. Being mov'd, he will not spare to ⁵ gird the gods.

Sic. Be-mock the modest moon.

Bru. ⁶ The present wars devour him ! he is grown
 Too

⁴ *Your valour puts well forth :—*] That is, You have in this mutiny shewn fair blossoms of valour. JOHNSON.

⁵ *—to gird—*] *To sneer, to gibe.* So Falstaff uses the noun, when he says, *every man has a gird at me.* JOHNSON.

⁶ *The present wars devour him ! he is grown*

Too proud to be so valiant.]

Mr. Theobald says, *This is obscurely expressed, but that the poet's meaning must certainly be, that Marcius is so conscious of, and so elate upon the notion of his own valour, that he is eaten up with pride, &c.* According to this critick then, we must conclude, that when Shakespeare had a mind to say, *A man was eaten up with pride*, he was so great a blunderer in expression, as to say, *He was eaten up with war.* But our poet wrote at another rate, and the blunder is his critick's. *The present wars devour him*, is an imprecation, and should be so pointed. As much as to say, *May he fall in those wars !* The reason of the curse is subjoined, for (says the speaker) having so much pride with so much valour, his life, with increase of honours, is dangerous to the republick, But the Oxford editor alters it to,

Too proud of being so valiant.

and by that means takes away the reason the speaker gives for his cursing. WARBURTON.

I am by no means convinced that Dr. Warburton's punctuation, or explanation, is right. The sense may be, that *the present wars annihilate his gentler qualities.* To eat up, and consequently to devour,

Too proud to be so valiant.

Sic. Such a nature,
Tickled with good success, disdains the shadow
Which he treads on at noon : But I do wonder,
His insolence can brook to be commanded
Under Cominius.

Bru. Fame, at the which he aims,—
In whom already he is well grac'd,—cannot
Better be held, nor more attain'd, than by
A place below the first : for what miscarries
Shall be the general's fault, though he perform
To the utmost of a man ; and giddy censure
Will then cry out on Marcius, O, *if he*
Had borne the business !

Sic. Besides, if things go well,
Opinion, that so sticks on Marcius, shall
Of his demerits rob Cominius.

Bru. Come :
Half all Cominius' honours are to Marcius,
Though Marcius earn'd them not ; and all his faults
To Marcius shall be honours, though, indeed,
In aught he merit not.

Sic. Let's hence, and hear
How the dispatch is made ; and in what fashion,

devour, has this meaning. So, in the second part of *K. Henry*
IV. act IV. sc. iv :

But thou (the crown) most fine, most honour'd, most
renown'd,

Hast eat thy bearer up.

He is grown too proud to be so valiant, may signify, his pride is
such as not to deserve the accompaniment of so much valour.

STEEVENS.

Of his demerits rob Cominius.] *Merits* and *Demerits* had an-
ciently the same meaning : So, in *Othello* :

——— and my *demerits*

May speak, &c.

Again, in Stowe's *Chronicle*, cardinal Wolsey says to his servants,
“——— I have not promoted, preferred, and advanced you all ac-
cording to your *demerits*.” Again, in P. Holland's translation of
Pliny's Epistle to T. Vespasian, 1600 : “——his *demerit* had been
he greater to have continued his story.” STEEVENS.

^s More than his singularity, he goes
Upon this present action.

Bru. Let's along.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.

The Senate-House in Corioli.

Enter Tullus Aufidius, with Senators.

1 Sen. So, your opinion is, Aufidius,
That they of Rome are enter'd in our counsels,
And know how we proceed.

Auf. Is it not yours ?

What ever hath been thought on in this state,
That could be brought to bodily act ere Rome
Had circumvention ? 'Tis not four days gone²,
Since I heard thence ; these are the words : I think,
I have the letter here ; yes, here it is :

They have press'd a power, but it is not known. [Reading.

Whether for east, or west : The dearth is great ;

The people mutinous : and it is rumour'd,

Cominus, Marcius your old enemy,

(Who is of Rome worse hated than of you)

And Titus Lartius, a most valiant Roman,

These three lead on this preparation

Whither 'tis bent : most likely, 'tis for you :

Consider of 'it.

1 Sen. Our army's in the field :
We never yet made doubt but Rome was ready
To answer us.

Auf. Nor did you think it folly,

^s *More than his singularity, &c.]* We will learn what he is to
do, besides going himself ; what are his powers, and what is his
appointment. JOHNSON.

² *——— 'Tis not four days gone,] i. e. four days past.*

STEEVENS.

To

To keep your great pretences veil'd, 'till when
They needs must shew themselves ; which in the
hatching,

It seem'd, appear'd to Rome. By the discovery,
We shall be shorten'd in our aim ; which was,
To take in many towns, ere, almost, Rome
Should know we were afoot.

2 *Sen.* Noble Aufidius,

Take your commission ; hie you to your bands ;
Let us alone to guard Corioli :
If they set down before us, ' for the remove
Bring up your army ; but, I think, you'll find
They have not prepar'd for us.

Auf. O, doubt not that ;

I speak from certainties. Nay, more,
Some parcels of their power are forth already,
And only hitherward. I leave your honours.
If we and Caius Marcius chance to meet,
'Tis sworn between us, we shall ever strike
'Till one can do no more.

All. The gods assist you !

Auf. And keep your honours safe !

1 *Sen.* Farewel.

* ———— for the remove

Bring up your army : ————]

The first part of this sentence is without meaning. The general had told the senators that the Romans had *prest a power*, which was on foot. To which the words in question are the answer of a senator. And, to make them pertinent, we should read them thus :

————— 'fore they remove

Bring up your army : ————

i. e. Before that power, already on foot, be in motion, bring up your army ; then he corrects himself, and says, but I believe you will find your intelligence groundless, the Romans are not yet prepared for us. WARBURTON.

I do not see the nonsense or impropriety of the old reading. Says the senator to Aufidius, *Go to your troops, we will garrison Corioli.* If the Romans besiege us, bring up your army to remove them. If any change should be made, I would read :

————— for their remove. JOHNSON.

2 *Sen.* Farewel.

All. Farewel.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE III.

Caius Marcius' House in Rome.

Enter Volumnia, and Virgilia : They sit down on two low stools, and sew.

Vol. I pray you, daughter, sing ; or exprefs yourself in a more comfortable sort : If my son were my husband, I should freelier rejoice in that absence wherein he won honour, than in the embracements of his bed, where he would shew most love. When yet he was but tender-body'd, and the only son of my womb ; when youth with comeliness pluck'd all gaze his way ; when, for a day of king's entreaties, a mother should not sell him an hour from her beholding ; I,—considering how honour would become such a person ; that it was no better than picture-like to hang by the wall, if renown made it not stir,—was pleas'd to let him seek danger where he was like to find fame. To a cruel war I sent him ; from whence he return'd, his ² brows bound with oak : I tell thee, daughter,—I sprang not more in joy at first hearing he was a man-child, than now in first seeing he had proved himself a man.

Vir. But had he died in the business, madam ? how then ?

Vol. Then his good report should have been my son ; I therein would have found issue. Hear me profess sincerely :—Had I a dozen sons,—each in my love alike, and none less dear than thine and my good

² *brows bound with oak :*] The crown given by the Romans to him that saved the life of a citizen, which was accounted more honourable than any other. JOHNSON.

Marcus,—I had rather had eleven die nobly for their country, than one voluptuously surfeit out of action.

Enter a Gentlewoman.

Gent. Madam, the lady Valeria is come to visit you.

Vir. Beseech you, give me leave to retire myself.

Vol. Indeed, you shall not.

Methinks, I hither hear your husband's drum;
See him pluck down Aufidius by the hair;
As children from a bear, the Volces shunning him:
Methinks, I see him stamp thus, and call thus,—
Come on you cowards; you were got in fear,
Though you were born in Rome: His bloody brow
With his mail'd hand then wiping, forth he goes;
Like to a harvest-man, that's task'd to mow
Or all, or lose his hire.

Vir. His bloody brow! O, Jupiter, no blood!

Vol. Away, you fool! it more becomes a man,
Than gilt his trophy: The breasts of Hecuba,
When she did suckle Hector, look'd not lovelier
Than Hector's forehead, when it spit forth blood
At Grecian swords' contending.—Tell Valeria,
We are fit to bid her welcome. [*Exit Gent.*]

Vir. Heavens bless my lord from fell Aufidius!

Vol. He'll beat Aufidius' head below his knee,
And tread upon his neck.

³ *Than gilt his trophy.*——] *Gilt* means a superficial display of gold, a word now obsolete. So, in *Hen. V*:

Our gayness and our *gilt*, are all besmirch'd.

STEEVENS.

⁴ *At Grecian swords contending.* Tell Valeria,] The accuracy of the editors of the first folio may be known from the manner in which they have given this line:

At Grecian sword. Centenning, tell Valeria. STEEVENS.

Enter

Enter Valeria, with an Usher, and a Gentlewoman.

Val. My ladies both, good day to you.

Vol. Sweet madam,——

Vir. I am glad to see your ladyship.

Val. How do you both? you are manifest house-keepers. What, are you sewing here? A fine spot, in good faith.—How does your little son?

Vir. I thank your ladyship; well, good madam.

Vol. He had rather see the swords, and hear a drum, Than look upon his school-master.

Val. O' my word, the father's son: I'll swear, 'tis a very pretty boy. O' my troth, I look'd upon him o' wednesday half an hour together: he has such a confirm'd countenance. I saw him run after a gilded butterfly; and when he caught it, he let it go again; and after it again; and over and over he comes, and up again; catch'd it again: or whether his fall enrag'd him, or how 'twas, he did so set his teeth, and tear it; O, I warrant, how he mammock'd it⁵!

Vol. One of his father's moods.

Val. Indeed la, 'tis a noble child.

Vir. A crack, madam⁶.

Val.

⁵ mammock'd it.] To *mammock* is to cut in pieces, or to tear. So, in *The Devil's Charter*, 1607:

“That he were chop'd in *mammocks*, I could eat him.”

STEEVENS.

⁶ A crack, madam.] Thus in *Cynthia's Revels* by Ben Jonson:

“—— Since we are turn'd *cracks*, let's study to be like *cracks*, act freely, carelessly, and capriciously.”

Again, in the *Four Prentices of London*, 1632:

“A notable, dissembling lad, a *crack*.”

Crack signifies a *boy child*. See Mr. Tyrwhitt's note on the first of the following passages quoted by Mr. Malone. STEEVENS.

This word is used in the 2d part of *K. Hen. IV*: “—I saw him break Skogan's head at the court gate when he was a *crack*, not this high.”

Again,

Val. Come, lay aside your stitchery ; I must have you play the idle hufwife with me this afternoon.

Vir. No, good madam ; I will not out of doors.

Val. Not out of doors !

Vol. She shall, she shall.

Vir. Indeed, no, by your patience : I will not over the threshold, 'till my lord return from the wars.

Val. Fie, you confine yourself most unreasonably : Come, you must go visit the good lady that lies in.

Vir. I will wish her speedy strength, and visit her with my prayers ; but I cannot go thither.

Vol. Why, I pray you ?

Vir. 'Tis not to save labour, nor that I want love.

Val. You would be another Penelope : yet, they say, all the yarn, she spun in Ulysses' absence, did but fill Ithaca full of moths. Come ; I would, your cambrick were sensible as your finger, that you might leave pricking it for pity. Come, you shall go with us.

Vir. No, good madam, pardon me ; indeed, I will not forth.

Val. In truth la, go with me ; and I'll tell you excellent news of your husband.

Vir. O, good madam, there can be none yet.

Val. Verily, I do not jest with you ; there came news from him last night.

Vir. Indeed, madam ?

Val. In earnest, it's true ; I heard a senator speak it. Thus it is :—The Volces have an army forth ; against whom Cominius the general is gone, with one part of our Roman power : your lord, and Titus Lartius, are set down before their city Corioli ; they nothing doubt prevailing, and to make it brief wars.

Again, in *May-Day*, a comedy by Chapman, 1611 :

“ *Lor.* The page hath persuaded him since, that it was but a gullery.

“ *Ang.* 'Tis a notable crack.” MALONE.

This is true, on mine honour ; and so, I pray, go with us.

Vir. Give me excuse, good madam ; I will obey you in every thing hereafter.

Vol. Let her alone, lady ; as she is now, she will but disease our better mirth.

Val. In troth, I think, she would :—Fare you well then.—Come, good sweet lady.—Pry'thee, Virgilia, turn thy solemnness out o' door, and go along with us.

Vir. No : at a word, madam ; indeed, I must not. I wish you much mirth.

Val. Well, then farewell.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE IV.

Before Corioli.

Enter Marcius, Titus Lartius, with Drum and Colours, Captains and Soldiers. To them a Messenger.

Mar. Yonder comes news :—A wager, they have met.

Lart. My horse to yours, no.

Mar. 'Tis done,

Lart. Agreed.

Mar. Say, has our general met the enemy ?

Mes. They lie in view ; but have not spoke as yet.

Lart. So, the good horse is mine.

Mar. I'll buy him of you.

Lart. No, I'll not sell, nor give him : lend you him, I will,

For half a hundred years.—Summon the town.

Mar. How far off lie these armies ?

Mes. Within this mile and half.

Mar. Then shall we hear their 'larum, and they ours. Now, Mars, I pr'ythee, make us quick in work ; That we with smoking swords may march from hence, To help our fielded friends !—Come, blow thy blast.

They

They sound a parley. Enter Senators, with others, on the walls.

Tullus Aufidius, is he within your walls?

I Sen. No,⁷ nor a man that fears you less than he,
That's lesser than a little. Hark, our drums

[Drum afar off.]

Are bringing forth our youth: We'll break our walls,
Rather than they shall pound us up: our gates,
Which yet seem shut, we have but pinn'd with rushes;
They'll open of themselves. Hark you, far off;

[Alarum, far off.]

There is Aufidius: list, what work he makes
Amongst your cloven army.

Mar. O, they are at it!

Lart. Their noise be our instruction.—Ladders, ho!

Enter the Volces.

Mar. They fear us not, but issue forth their city.
Now put your shields before your hearts, and fight
With hearts more proof than shields.—Advance,
brave Titus:

They do disdain us much beyond our thoughts,
Which makes me sweat with wrath.—Come, on my
fellows;

He that retires, I'll take him for a Volce,
And he shall feel mine edge.

[Alarum; the Romans beat back to their trenches.]

⁷ —nor a man that fears you less than he,
That's lesser than a little.—]

The sense requires it to be read:

—nor a man that fears you more than he;

Or, more probably:

—nor a man but fears you less than he,
That's lesser than a little.— JOHNSON.

Re-enter

Clapt to their gates ; he is himself alone,
To answer all the city.

Lart. O noble fellow !

² Who, sensible, out-dares his senseless sword,
And, when it bows, stands up ! Thou art left, Mar-
cius :

A carbuncle entire, as big as thou art,
Were not so rich a jewel. Thou wast a soldier
Even to ² Cato's wish : not fierce and terrible
Only in strokes ; but, with thy grim looks, and
The thunder-like percussion of thy sounds,
Thou mad'st thine enemies shake, as if the world
Were feverous, and did tremble.

Re-enter Marcius bleeding, assaulted by the enemy.

¹ *Sol.* Look, sir.

Lart. O, 'tis Marcius :

Let's fetch him off, or ¹ make remain alike.

[*They fight, and all enter the city.*]

² *Who, sensible, out-dares*————] The old editions read :

Who sensibly out-dares————

Thirlby reads :

Who, sensible, outdoes his senseless sword.

He is followed by the later editors, but I have taken only half his correction. JOHNSON.

The thought seems to have been adopted from Sidney's *Arcadia*, edit. 1633, p. 293 :

“ Their very armour by piece-meale fell away from them :
and yet their flesh abode the wounds constantly, as though it were
lesse sensible of smart than the senselesse armour, &c.”

STEEVENS.

³ ——— Cato's wish : ———] In the old editions it was :

———— Calvus' wish : ———

Plutarch, in the *Life of Coriolanus*, relates this as the opinion of
Cato the Elder, that a great soldier should carry terror in his
looks and tone of voice ; and the poet, hereby following the his-
torian, is fallen into a great chronological impropriety.

THEOBALD.

¹ ——— make remain ———] Is an old manner of speaking, which
means no more than *remain*. HANMER.

S C E N E V.

Within the town.

Enter certain Romans, with spoils.

1 *Rom.* This will I carry to Rome.

2 *Rom.* And I this.

3 *Rom.* A murrain on't ! I took this for silver.

[Alarum continues still afar off.]

Enter Marcius, and Titus Lartius, with a trumpet.

Mar. See here these movers, that do ² prize their
hours

At a crack'd drachm ! Cushions, leaden spoons,
Irons of a doit, doublets that hangmen would
Bury with those that wore them, these base slaves,
Ere yet the fight be done, pack up :—Down with
them.—

And hark, what noise the general makes !—To
him :—

There is the man of my soul's hate, Aufidius,
Piercing our Romans : Then, valiant Titus, take
Convenient numbers to make good the city ;
Whilst I, with those that have the spirit, will haste
To help Cominius.

Lart. Worthy sir, thou bleed'st ;

² ———prize their honours] In the first edition it is,
———prize their hours.

I know not who corrected it. A modern editor, who had made such an improvement, would have spent half a page in ostentation of his sagacity. JOHNSON.

Yet the old reading is perhaps right, and may bear this sense. Coriolanus blames the Roman soldiers only for wasting *their time* in packing up trifles of such small value.

So, in sir Tho. North's Translation of *Plutarch* ;

“ —he cried, it was no *time* now to looke after spoil, &c.”

STEEVENS.

Thy

Thy exercise hath been too violent for
A second course of fight.

Mar. Sir, praise me not :

My work hath yet not warm'd me : Fare you well,
The blood I drop is rather physical
Than dangerous to me : To Aufidius thus
I will appear, and fight,

Lart. Now the fair goddess, Fortune,
Fall deep in love with thee ; and her great charms
Misguide thy opposers' swords ! Bold gentleman,
Prosperity be thy page !

Mar. Thy friend no less
Than those she places highest ! So, farewell.

Lart. Thou worthiest Marcius !—
Go, sound thy trumpet in the market-place ;
Call thither all the officers of the town,
Where they shall know our mind : Away. [*Exeunt.*]

S C E N E VI.

The Roman Camp.

Enter Cominius retreating, with soldiers.

Com. Breathe you, my friends ; well fought :
we are come off

Like Romans, neither foolish in our stands,
Nor cowardly in retire : believe me, sirs,
We shall be charg'd again. Whiles we have struck,
By interims, and conveying gusts, we have heard
The charges of our friends :—² Ye Roman gods,
Lead their successes as we wish our own ;

² The Roman gods, &c.

That both our powers————

May give you thankful sacrifice !——]

This is an address and invocation to them, therefore we should read :

———— Ye Roman gods. WARBURTON.

That both our powers, with smiling fronts encoun-
tring,

Enter a Messenger.

May give you thankful sacrifice !—Thy news ?

Mes. The citizens of Corioli have issued,
And given to Lartius and to Marcius battle :
I saw our party to the trenches driven,
And then I came away.

Com. Though thou speak'st truth,
Methinks, thou speak'st not well. How long is't
since ?

Mes. Above an hour, my lord.

Com. 'Tis not a mile ; briefly we heard their
drums :

How could'st thou in a mile confound an hour³,
And bring thy news so late ?

Mes. Spies of the Volces
Held me in chase, that I was forc'd to wheel
Three or four miles about ; else had I, sir,
Half an hour since brought my report.

Enter Marcius.

Com. Who's yonder,
That does appear as he were fled ? O gods !
He has the stamp of Marcius ; and I have
Before-time seen him thus.

Mar. Come I too late ?

Com. The shepherd knows not thunder from a
tabor,

³ Confound an hour,] *Confound* is here used not in its common
acceptation, but in the sense of—to expend. *Conterere tempus.*

MALONE.

So, in *K. Henry IV.* Part I. act I. sc. iii:

He did *confound* the best part of an hour, &c.

STEEVENS.

More

More than I know the sound of Marcius' tongue
From every meaner man's.

Mar. Come I too late?

Com. Ay, if you come not in the blood of others,
But mantled in your own.

Mar. O! let me clip you
In arms as sound, as when I woo'd; in heart
As merry, as when our nuptial day was done,
And tapers burnt to bedward⁴.

Com. Flower of warriors,
How is't with Titus Lartius?

Mar. As with a man busied about decrees:
Condemning some to death, and some to exile;
⁵ Ransoming him, or pitying, threatening the other;
Holding Corioli in the name of Rome,
Even like a fawning greyhound in the leash,
To let him slip at will.

Com. Where is that slave,
Which told me they had beat you to your trenches?
Where is he? Call him hither.

Mar. Let him alone,
He did inform the truth: But for our gentlemen,
The common file, (A plague! Tribunes for them!)
The mouse ne'er shunn'd the cat, as they did budge
From rascals worse than they.

Com. But how prevail'd you?

Mar. Will the time serve to tell? I do not think—
Where is the enemy? Are you lords o' the field?
If not, why cease you 'till you are so?

Com. Marcius, we have at disadvantage fought,
And did retire, to win our purpose.

Mar. How lies their battle? Know you on what
side⁶

They

⁴ —to bedward.] So, in *Albumazar*, 1610:

“Sweats hourly for a dry brown crust to bedward.”

STEEVENS.

⁵ *Ransoming him, or pitying, —*] i. e. *remitting his ransom.*

JOHNSON.

⁶ —on what side &c.] So, in the old translation of *Plutarch*:

A a 3

“Mar-

They have plac'd their men of trust ?

Com. As I guess, Marcius,
Their bands i' the vaward are the Antiates⁷,
Of their best trust : o'er them Aufidius,
Their very heart of hope.

Mar. I do beseech you,
By all the battles wherein we have fought,
By the blood we have shed together, by the vows
We have made to endure friends, that you directly
Set me against Aufidius, and his Antiates :
⁸ And that you not delay the present ; but,
Filling the air with⁹ swords advanc'd, and darts,
We prove this very hour.

Com. Though I could wish
You were conducted to a gentle bath,
And balms applied to you, yet dare I never
Deny your asking ; take your choice of those
That best can aid your action.

Mar. Those are they
That most are willing :—If any such be here,
(As it were sin to doubt) that love this painting
Wherein you see me smear'd ; if any fear

“ Martius asked him howe the order of their enemies battell was, and on which side they had placed their best fighting men. The consul made him aunswer that he thought the bandes which were in the vaward of their battell, were those of the Antiates, whom they esteemed to be the warlikest men, and which for valiant corage would geve no place to any of the hoste of their enemies. Then prayed Martius to be set directly against them. The consul gaunted him, greatly praying his corage.”

STEEVENS.

⁷ — Antiates] The old copy reads—*Antients*, which might mean *veterans* ; but a following line, as well as the previous quotation, seems to prove *Antiates* to be the proper reading. “ Set me against Aufidius and his *Antiates*.” STEEVENS.

⁸ And that you not delay the present, —] *Delay*, for let slip,

WARBURTON.

⁹ — swords advanc'd, —] That is, swords lifted high.

JOHNSON.

Lesser his person than an ill report¹;
 If any think, brave death outweighs bad life,
 And that his country's dearer than himself;
 Let him, alone, or so many, so minded,
 Wave thus, to express his disposition,
 And follow Marcius. *[Waving his hand.*

*[They all shout, and wave their swords, take him
 up in their arms, and cast up their caps.]*

O me, alone! Make you a sword of me?
 If these shews be not outward, which of you
 But is four Volces? None of you, but is
 Able to bear against the great Aufidius
 A shield as hard as his. A certain number,
 Though thanks to all, must I select from all:
 The rest shall bear the business in some other fight,
 As cause will be obey'd. ² Please you to march;
 And

¹ Lesser *his person than an ill report*;] The old copy has *lesser*;
 I suspect the authour wrote:

Less in his person than in ill report. MALONE.

² — Please you to march,
 And four shall quickly draw out my command,
Which men are best inclin'd.]

I cannot but suspect this passage of corruption. Why should they
 march, that four might select those that were *best inclin'd*? How
 would their inclinations be known? Who were the four that
 should select them? Perhaps, we may read:

— Please you to march;

And fear shall quickly draw out of my command,

Which men are least inclin'd.

It is easy to conceive that, by a little negligence, *fear* might be
 changed to *four*, and *least* to *best*. Let us march, and that fear
 which incites desertion will free my army from cowards.

JOHNSON.

The author of the *Revisal* thinks the poet wrote:

“ And so I shall quickly draw out.” &c.

Some sense, however, may be extorted from the ancient reading.
 Coriolanus may mean that as *all* the soldiers have offered to at-
 tend him on this expedition, and he wants only a *part* of them,
 he will submit the selection to *four* indifferent persons, that he
 himself may escape the charge of partiality. If this be the drift

And four shall quickly draw out my command,
Which men are best inclin'd.

Com. March on, my fellows :
Make good this ostentation, and you shall
Divide in all with us.

[*Exeunt.*]

S C E N E VII.

The Gates of Corioli.

Titus Lartius, having set a guard upon Corioli, going with a drum and trumpet toward Cominius and Caius Marcius, enters with a lieutenant, other soldiers, and a scout.

Lart. So, let the ports³ be guarded : Keep your duties,

As I have set them down. If I do send, dispatch
Those centuries to our aid ; the rest will serve
For a short holding : if we lose the field,
We cannot keep the town.

Lieu. Fear not our care, sir.

Lart. Hence, and shut your gates upon us.—
Our guider, come ; to the Roman camp conduct us.

[*Exeunt.*]

of Shakespeare, he has expressed it with uncommon obscurity. The old translation of *Plutarch* only says, “ Wherefore, with those that willingly offered themselves to followe him, he went out of the cittie.” STEEVENS.

If we should read *forth* instead of *four*, *forth* cannot signify *forthwith*, but *advancing forward*.

Something like this expression occurs in *K. Richard III* :

Are you drawn *forth* from out a world of men.

TOLLET.

³ —the ports] i. e. the gates. STEEVENS.

SCENE

S C E N E VIII.

*The Field of Battle.**Alarum. Enter Marcius, and Aufidius.*

Mar. I'll fight with none but thee; for I do hate thee

Worse than a promise-breaker.

Auf. We hate alike;

Not Africk owns a serpent, I abhor

More than thy fame and envy: Fix thy foot.

Mar. Let the first budger die the other's slave,
And the gods doom him after!

Auf. If I fly, Marcius,
Halloo me like a hare.

Mar. Within these three hours, Tullus,
Alone I fought in your Corioli walls,
And made what work I pleas'd: 'Tis not my blood,
Wherein thou seest me mask'd; for thy revenge,
Wrench up thy power to the highest.

Auf. * Wert thou the Hector,
That was the whip of your bragg'd progeny,
Thou should'st not scape me here.—

[Here they fight, and certain Volces come to the aid of Aufidius. Marcius fights till they be driven in breathless.]

* Wert thou the Hector,

That was the whip of your bragg'd progeny,]

The Romans boasted themselves descended from the Trojans; how then was Hector the *whip of their progeny*? It must mean the whip with which the Trojans scourged the Greeks, which cannot be but by a very unusual construction, or the authour must have forgotten the original of the Romans; unless *whip* has some meaning which includes *advantage* or *superiority*, as we say, *he has the whip hand*, for *he has the advantage*. JOHNSON.

Schoolboys at this day use a similar expression:—

“He is the *crack* of the school.” MALONE.

Officious, and not valiant!—⁵ you have sham'd me
In your condemned seconds. [Exeunt fighting.]

S C E N E IX.

The Roman Camp.

Flourish. Alarum. A retreat is sounded. Enter at one door, Cominius with the Romans; at another door, Marcius, with his arm in a scarf, &c.

Com. If I should tell thee⁶ o'er this thy day's work,
Thou'lt not believe thy deeds: but I'll report it,

⁵ ——— you have sham'd me
In your condemned seconds.]

For *condemned*, we may read *contemned*. You have, to my shame, sent me help *which I despise*. JOHNSON.

Why may we not as well be contented with the old reading, and explain it, *You have, to my shame, sent me help, which I must condemn as intrusive, instead of applauding it as necessary?*

STEEVENS.

⁶ *If I should tell thee &c.*] So, in the old translation of *Plutarch*: "There the consul Cominius going vp to his chayer of state, in the presence of the whole armie, gaue thanks to the goddess for so great, glorious, and prosperous a victorie: then he spake to Martius, whose valliantnes he commended beyond the moone, both for that he him selfe sawe him doe with his eyes, as also for that Martius had reported vnto him. So in the ende he willed Martius, he should choose out of all the horses they had taken of their enemies, and of all the goodes they had wonne (whereof there was great store) tenne of euery sorte which he liked best, before any distribution should be made to other. Besides this great honorable offer he had made him, he gaue him in testimonie that he had wonne that daye the price of prowes aboue all other, a goodly horse with a capparison, and all furniture to him: which the whole armie beholding, dyd marvelously praise and commend. But Martius stepping forth, told the consul, he most thanckefully accepted the giste of his horse, and was a glad man besides, that his seruice had deserued his generalls commendation: and as for his other offer, which was rather a mercenary reward, than an honourable recompence, he would none of it, but was contented to haue his equall parte with other souldiers." STEEVENS.

Where

Where senators shall mingle tears with smiles ;
 Where great patricians shall attend, and shrug,
 I' the end, admire ; where ladies shall be frightened,
⁷ And, gladly quak'd, hear more ; where the dull Tri-
 bunes,
 That, with the fusty plebeians, hate thine honours,
 Shall say, against their hearts,—*We thank the gods,*
Our Rome hath such a soldier !—
 Yet can'st thou to a morsel of this feast,
 Having fully din'd before.

Enter Titus Lartius, with his power, from the pursuit.

Lart. O general,
⁸ Here is the steed, we the caparisons !
 Had'st thou beheld—

Mar. Pray now, no more : my mother,
 Who has ⁹ a charter to extol her blood,
 When she does praise me, grieves me.
 I have done as you have done ; that's, what I can :
 Induc'd, as you have been ; that's for my country :
 He, that has but effected his good will,
 Hath overta'en mine act.

Com. You shall not be
 The grave of your deserving ; Rome must know
 The value of her own : 'twere a concealment
 Worse than a theft, no less than a traducement,
 To hide your doings ; and to silence that,

⁷ *And, gladly quak'd,——*] i. e. thrown into grateful trepidation.

To *quake* is used likewise as a verb active by T. Heywood, in his *Silver Age*, 1613 :

“——We'll *quake* them at that bar

“Where all souls wait for sentence.” STEEVENS.

⁸ *Here is the steed, we the caparisons !*] This is an odd encomium. The meaning is, *this man performed the action, and we only filled up the show.* JOHNSON.

⁹ — *a charter to extol——*] A privilege to praise her own son.
 JOHNSON.

Which,

Which, to the spire and top of praises vouch'd,
Would seem but modest : Therefore, I beseech you,
(In sign of what you are, not to reward
What you have done) before our army hear me.

Mar. I have some wounds upon me, and they smart
To hear themselves remember'd.

Com. ¹ Should they not,
Well might they fester 'gainst ingratitude,
And tent themselves with death. Of all the horses,
(Whereof we have ta'en good, and good store) of all
The treasure, in the field atchiev'd, and city,
We render you the tenth ; to be ta'en forth,
Before the common distribution, at
Your only choice.

Mar. I thank you, general ;
But cannot make my heart consent to take
A bribe, to pay my sword : I do refuse it ;
And stand upon my common part with those
That have beheld the doing.

[*A long flourish. They all cry, Marcus ! Marcus !
cast up their caps and lances : Cominius, and Lar-
tius, stand bare.*]

Mar. May these same instruments, which you pro-
fane,
Never sound more ! ² When drums and trumpets shall
I' th'

¹ *Should they not,*] That is, not be remembered. JOHNSON.

² — *When drums and trumpets shall &c.*] In the old copy :

— *when drums and trumpets shall,
I' th' field, prove flatterers, let courts and cities
Be made all of false-fac'd soothing.
When steel grows soft as the parasite's silk,
Let him be made an overture for the wars : —*

All here is miserably corrupt and disjointed. We should read the
whole thus :

— *when drums and trumpets shall,
I' th' field prove flatterers, let camps, as cities,
Be made of false-fac'd soothing ! When steel grows
Soft as the parasite's silk, let hymns be made
An overture for the wars ! —*

I' the field prove flatterers, let courts and cities be
 Made all of false-fac'd soothing ! When steel grows
 Soft as the parasite's filk, let him be made
 A coverture for the wars !—No more, I say ;
 For that I have not wash'd my nose that bled,
 Or foil'd some debile wretch,—which, without note,
 Here's many else have done,—you shout me forth
 In acclamations hyperbolical ;
 As if I lov'd my little should be dieted
 In praises sauc'd with lyes.

Com. Too modest are you ;
 More cruel to your good report, than grateful
 To us that give you truly : by your patience,

The thought is this, If one thing changes its usual nature to a thing most opposite, there is no reason but that all the rest which depend on it should do so too. [If drums and trumpets prove flatterers, let the *camp* bear the false face of the city.] And if another changes its usual nature, that its opposite should do so too. [When steel softens to the condition of the parasite's filk, the peaceful *hymns* of devotion should be employed to excite to the charge.] Now, in the first instance, the thought, in the common reading was entirely lost by putting in *courts* for *camps* : and the latter miserably involved in nonsense by blundering *hymns* into *him*. WARBURTON.

The first part of the passage has been altered, in my opinion, unnecessarily by Dr. Warburton ; and the latter not so happily, I think, as he often conjectures. In the latter part, which only I mean to consider, instead of, *him*, (an evident corruption) he substitutes *hymns* ; which perhaps may palliate, but certainly has not cured, the wounds of the sentence. I would propose an alteration of two words :

“ ———when steel grows

“ Soft as the parasite's filk, let *this* [i. e. filk] be made

“ A *coverture* for the wars !”

The sense will then be apt and complete. *When steel grows soft as filk, let armour be made of filk instead of steel.* TYRWHITT.

It should be remembered, that the personal *him*, is not unfrequently used by our author, and other writers of his age, instead of *it*, the neuter ; and that *overture*, in its musical sense, is not so ancient as the age of Shakespeare. What Martial has said of Mutius Scævola, may however be applied to Dr. Warburton's proposed emendation : —

Si non errasset, fecerat ille minus. STEEVENS.

If 'gainst yourself you be incens'd, we'll put you
(Like one that means his proper harm) in manacles,
Then reason safely with you.—Therefore, be it
known,

As to us, to all the world, that Caius Marcius
Wears this war's garland : in token of the which,
My noble steed, known to the camp, I give him,
With all his trim belonging ; and, from this time,
For what he did ³ before Corioli, call him,
With all the applause and clamour of the host,
Caius Marcius Coriolanus ⁴.—
Bear the addition nobly ever!

[*Flourish. Trumpets sound, and drums:*

Omnes. Caius Marcius Coriolanus !

Car. I will go wash ;

And when my face is fair, you shall perceive
Whether I blush, or no : Howbeit, I thank you :—
I mean to stride your steed ; and, at all times,
⁵ To undercrest your good addition,
⁶ To the fairness of my power.

Com. So, to our tent :

Where, ere we do repose us, we will write

³ *For what he did &c.]* So, in the old translation of *Plutarch* :
“ After this showte and noyse of the assembly was somewhat appeased, the consul Cominius beganne to speake in this sorte. We cannot compell Martius to take these giftes we offer him, if he will not receaue them : but we will geue him suche a rewarde for the noble seruice he hath done, as he cannot refuse. Therefore we doe order and decree, that henceforth he be called *Coriolanus*, onles his valliant acts haue wonne him that name before our nomination.” STEEVENS.

⁴ The folio—*Marcus Caius Coriolanus.* STEEVENS.

⁵ *To undercrest your good addition,]* A phrase from heraldry, signifying, that he would endeavour to support his good opinion of him. WARBURTON.

⁶ *To the fairness of my power.]* *Fairness, for utmost.*

WARBURTON.

I know not how *fairness* can mean *utmost*. When two engage on equal terms, we say it is *fair* ; *fairness* may therefore be *equality* ; in proportion equal to my power. JOHNSON.

To Rome of our success.—You, Titus Lartius,
Must to Corioli back : send us to Rome
The best, with whom we may articulate³,
For their own good, and ours.

Lart. I shall, my lord.

Cor. The gods begin to mock me. I that now
Refus'd most princely gifts, am bound to beg
Of my lord general.

Com. Take it : 'tis yours.—What is't ?

Cor. I sometime lay, here in Corioli,
At a poor man's house⁹ ; he us'd me kindly :
He cry'd to me ; I saw him prisoner ;
But then Aufidius was within my view,
And wrath o'erwhelm'd my pity : I request you
To give my poor host freedom.

Com. O, well begg'd !

Were he the butcher of my son, he should
Be free, as is the wind. Deliver him, Titus.

Lart. Marcius, his name ?

Cor. By Jupiter, forgot :—

I am weary ; yea, my memory is tir'd.—
Have we no wine here ?

Com. Go we to our tent :

² *The best*——] *The chief men of Corioli.* JOHNSON.

³ ——*with whom we may articulate,*] i. e. *enter into articles.*
This word occurs again in *Hen. IV.*

“ Indeed these things you have articulated.”
i. e. *set down article by article.* So, in Holinshed's *Chronicles of Ireland*, p. 163 : “ The earl of Desmond's treasons articulated.”

STEEVENS.

⁹ *At a poor man's house ;*] So, in the old translation of *Plutarch* : “ Only this grace (said he) I craue, and beseeche you to grant me. Among the Volsces there is an olde friende and hoste of mine, an honest wealthie man, and now a prisoner, who liuing before in great wealth in his owne cuntrye, liueth now a poore prisoner in the handes of his enemies : and yet notwithstanding all this his miserie and misfortune, it woud doe me great pleasure if I could saue him from this one daunger : to keepe him from being solde as a slaue.” STEEVENS.

The blood upon your visage dries ; 'tis time
It should he look'd to : come. [Exeunt]

S C E N E X.

The Camp of the Volces.

*A flourish. Cornets. Enter Tullus Aufidius bloody, with
two or three soldiers.*

Auf. The town is ta'en !

Sol. 'Twill be deliver'd back on good condition.

Auf. Condition !—

I would, I were a Roman ; for I cannot,
Being a Volce, be that I am.—Condition !
What good condition can a treaty find
I' the part that is at mercy ? Fives times, Marcius,
I have fought with thee ; so often hast thou beat me ;
And would'st do so, I think, should we encounter
As often as we eat.—By the elements,
If e'er again I meet him beard to beard,
He is mine, or I am his : Mine emulation
Hath not that honour in't, it had ; for where
I thought to crush him in an equal force,
True sword to sword, I'll potch at him some way ;
Or wrath, or craft, may get him.

¹ *Being a Volcian, &c.]* It may be just observed, that Shakespeare calls the *Volci*, *Volces*, which the modern editors have changed to the modern termination. I mention it here, because here the change has spoiled the measure :

Being a Volce, be that I am. Condition ! JOHNSON.

The *Volci* are called *Vlces* in sir Tho. North's *Plutarch*, and so I have printed the word throughout this tragedy. STEEVENS.

² ——— *I'll potch at him some way ;]* The *Revised* reads *poach* ; but *potch*, to which the objection is made as no English word, is used in the midland counties for a *rough, violent push*. STEEVENS.

In Carew's *Survey of Cornwall*, the word *potch* is used in almost the same sense, p. 31 : " They use also to *poche* them (fish) with an instrument somewhat like a salmon-speare." TOLLET.

Sol.

Sol. He's the devil.

Auf. Bolder, though not so subtle: My valour's poison'd³,

With only suffering stain by him; ⁴ for him
Shall flie out of itself: ⁵ nor sleep, nor sanctuary,
Being naked, sick; nor fane, nor Capitol,
The prayers of priests, nor times of sacrifice,
Embarquements all of fury, shall lift up

³ *My valour's poison'd,*] The construction of this passage would be clearer, if it were written thus:

—— my valour, *poison'd*

With only suffering stain by him, for him

Shall flie out of itself. TYRWHITT.

⁴ —— for him

Shall flie out of itself: ——]

To mischief him, my valour should *deviate* from its own native generosity. JOHNSON.

⁵ —— nor sleep nor sanctuary, &c.

Embarquements all of fury, &c.]

The dramatick art of this speech is great. For after Aufidius had so generously received Coriolanus in exile, nothing but the memory of this speech, which lets one so well into Aufidius's nature, could make his after-perfidy and baseness at all probable. But the second line of this impious rant is corrupt. For though, indeed, he might call the *assaulting* Marcius at any of those sacred seasons and places an *embarkment* of fury; yet he could not call the *seasons and places themselves*, so. We may believe therefore that Shakespeare wrote:

Embarrments all of fury, &c.

i. e. obstacles. Though those seasons and places are all obstacles to my fury, yet, &c. The Oxford editor has, in his usual way, refined upon this emendation, in order to make it his own; and so reads, *embankments*, not considering how ill this metaphor agrees with what is said just after of their—*lifting up their rotten privilege*, which evidently refers to a wooden bar, not to an earthen bank. These two generals are drawn equally covetous of glory: But the Volscian not scrupulous about the means. And his immediate repentance, after the assassinate, well agrees with such a character. WARBURTON.

The contested word, in the old copy, is spelt *embarquements*, and, as Cotgrave says, meant not only an *embarkation*, but an *embargoing*. *The rotten privilege and custom* that follow, seem to favour this explanation, and therefore the old reading may well enough stand, as an *embargo* is undoubtedly an *impediment*.

STEEVENS.

Their rotten privilege and custom 'gainst
 My hate to Marcius : where I find him, were it
 * At home, upon my brother's guard, even there,
 Against the hospitable canon, would I
 Wash my fierce hand in his heart. Go you to the
 city ;

Learn, how 'tis held ; and what they are, that must
 Be hostages for Rome.

Sol. Will not you go ?

Auf. I am attended at the cypress grove :

I pray you,

('Tis south the city mills ⁷) bring me word thither
 How the world goes ; that to the pace of it
 I may spur on my journey.

Sol. I shall, fir.

[*Exeunt.*]

ACT II. SCENE I.

Rome.

Enter Menenius, with Sicinius, and Brutus.

Men. The augurer tells me, we shall have news to
 night.

* *At home, upon my brother's guard,—*] In my own house,
 with my brother posted to protect him. JOHNSON.

⁷ (*'Tis south the city mills*)] But where could Shakespeare have
 heard of these mills at Antium ? I believe we should read :

(*'Tis south the city a mile.*)

The old edition reads *mils*. TYRWHITT.

Shakespeare is seldom careful about such little improprieties.

Coriolanus speaks of *our divines*, and *Menenius* of *graves in the holy churchyard*. It is said afterwards, that *Coriolanus* talks like a *knell* ; and *drums*, and *Hob* and *Dick*, are with as little attention to time or place, introduced in this tragedy. STEEVENS.

Brut.

Bru. Good, or bad ?

Men. Not according to the prayer of the people, for they love not Marcius.

Sic. Nature teaches beasts to know their friends.

Men. * Pray you, who does the wolf love ?

Sic. The lamb.

Men. Ay, to devour him ; as the hungry plebeians would the noble Marcius.

Bru. He's a lamb indeed, that baes like a bear.

Men. He's a bear, indeed, that lives like a lamb. You two are old men ; tell me one thing that I shall ask you.

Both. Well, fir.

Men. In what enormity is Marcius poor, that you two have not in abundance ?

Bru. He's poor in no one fault, but stor'd with all.

Sic. Especially, in pride.

Bru. And topping all others in boasting.

Men. This is strange now : Do you two know how you are censur'd here in the city, I mean of us o' the right hand file ? Do you ?

Bru. Why, how are we censur'd ?

Men. Because you talk of pride now,—Will you not be angry ?

Both. Well, well, fir, well.

Men. Why, 'tis no great matter ; for a very little thief of occasion will rob you of a great deal of patience ; give your dispositions the reins, and be angry at your pleasures ; at the least, if you take it as a pleasure to you, in being so. You blame Marcius for being proud ?

Bru. We do it not alone, fir.

Men. I know, you can do very little alone ; for

* Pray you, &c.] When the tribune, in reply to Menenius's remark, on the people's hate of Coriolanus, had observed that even *beasts know their friends*, Menenius asks, *whom does the wolf love?* implying that there are beasts which love nobody, and that among those beasts are the people. JOHNSON.

your helps are many ; or else your actions would grow wondrous single : your abilities are too infant-like, for doing much alone. You talk of pride : Oh, that you could turn your eyes ⁸ towards the napes of your necks, and make but an interior survey of your good selves ! O, that you could !

Bru. What then, sir ?

Men. Why, then you should discover a brace of as unmeriting, proud, violent, testy magistrates, (alias, fools) as any in Rome.

Sic. Menenius, you are known well enough too.

Men. I am known to be a humorous patrician, and one that loves a cup of hot wine with not a drop of allaying Tiber in't : said to be something imperfect, in favouring the first complaint ; hasty, and tinder-like, upon too trivial motion : ⁹ one that converses more with the buttock of the night, than with the forehead of the morning. What I think, I utter ; and spend my malice in my breath : Meeting two such wealsmen as you are, (I cannot call you Lycurgusses) if the drink you give me, touch my palate adversely, I make a crooked face at it. I can't say, your worships have deliver'd the matter well, when I find the *as* in compound with the major part of your syllables : and though I must be content to bear with those that say you are reverend grave men ; yet they lye deadly, that tell you you have good faces. If you see this in the map of my microcosm, follows it, that I am known well enough too ? What harm can your ¹ *bisson* conspectuities glean out of this character, if I be known well enough too ?

⁸ *towards the napes of your necks,*] With allusion to the fable, which says, that every man has a bag hanging before him, in which he puts his neighbour's faults, and another behind him, in which he stows his own. JOHNSON.

⁹ *one that converses more &c.*] Rather a late lier down than an early riser. JOHNSON.

¹ *bisson conspectuities,*] *Bisson*, blind, in the old copies, is *beesome*, restored by Mr. Theobald. JOHNSON.

Bru.

Bru. Come, fir, come, we know you well enough.

Men. You know neither me, yourselves, nor any thing. You are ambitious for poor knaves' caps and legs : ² you wear out a good wholesome forenoon, in hearing a cause between an orange-wife and a foflet-feller ; and then rejourne the controversy of three-pence to a fecond day of audience.—When you are hearing a matter between party and party, if you chance to be pinch'd with the cholic, you make faces like mummers ; ³ fet up the bloody flag againft all patience, and, in roaring for a chamber-pot, difmifs the controversy bleeding, the more entangled by your hearing : all the peace you make in their caufe, is, calling both the parties knaves : You are a pair of ftrange ones.

Bru. Come, come, you are well underftood to be a perfecter giber for the table, than a neceffary bencher in the Capitol.

Men. Our very priefts muft become mockers, if they fhall encounter fuch ridiculous fubjects as you are. When you fpeak beft unto the purpofe, it is not worth the wagging of your beards ; and your beards deferve not fo honourable a grave, as to ftuff a botcher's cushion, or to be entomb'd in an afs's pack-faddle. Yet you muft be faying, Marcius is proud ; who, in a cheap eftimation, is worth all your predecessors, fince Deucalion ; though, peradventure, fome of the beft of them were hereditary hangmen. Good-e'en to your worfhips : more of your converfation would infect my brain, being the ⁴ herdsmen of the

² you wear out a good &c.] It appears from this whole fpeech that Shakefpeare miftook the office of *præfectus urbis* for the tribune's office. WARBURTON.

³ fet up the bloody flag againft all patience,] That is, declare war againft patience. There is not wit enough in this satire to recompence its groffnefs. JOHNSON.

⁴ herdsmen of plebeians.] As kings are called ποιμένες λαών.

JOHNSON.

bestly plebeians : I will be bold to take my leave of you,

Enter Volumnia, Virgilia, and Valeria.

How now, my fair as noble ladies, (and the moon, were she earthly, no nobler) whither do you follow your eyes so fast ?

Vol. Honourable Menenius, my boy Marcius approaches ; for the love of Juno, lets go,

Men. Ha ! Marcius coming home ?

Vol. Ay, worthy Menenius ; and with most prosperous approbation.

Men. ° Take my cap, Jupiter, and I thank thee :—
Hoo ! Marcius coming home !

Both. Nay, 'tis true,

Vol. Look, here's a letter from him ; the state hath another, his wife another ; and, I think, there's one at home for you.

Men. I will make my very house reel to night :—
A letter for me ?

Vir. Yes, certain, there's a letter for you ; I saw it.

Men. A letter for me ? It gives me an estate of seven years' health ; in which time, I will make a lip at the physician ; the most sovereign prescription in Ga-

° *Take my cap, Jupiter, and I thank thee :—*] Though Menenius is made a prater and a boon companion, yet it was not the design of the poet to have him prophane, and *bid Jupiter take his cap*. Shakespeare's thought is very different from what his editors dreamed of. He wrote :

Take my cup, Jupiter,——

i. e. I will go offer a *libation* to thee, for this good news : which was the custom of that time. There is a pleasantry, indeed, in his way of expressing it, very agreeable to his convivial character. But the editors, not knowing the use of this *cup*, altered it to *cap*. WARBURTON.

Shakespeare so often mentions throwing up caps in this play, that Menenius may be well enough supposed to throw up his cap in thanks to Jupiter. JOHNSON.

len is but empiric⁷, and, to this preservative, of no better report than a horse-drench. Is he not wounded? he was wont to come home wounded.

Vir. O, no, no, no.

Vol. O, he is wounded, I thank the gods for't.

Men. So do I too, if it be not too much :—Brings a' victory in his pocket?—The wounds become him.

Vol. On's brows, Menenius; he comes the third time home with the oaken garland.

Men. Has he disciplin'd Aufidius soundly?

Vol. Titus Lartius writes,—they fought together, but Aufidius got off.

Men. And 'twas time for him too, I'll warrant him that : 'an he had staid by him, I would not have been so fidius'd for all the chests in Corioli, and the gold that's in them. Is the senate⁸ possess'd of this?

Vol. Good ladies, let's go :—Yes, yes, yes : the senate has letters from the general, wherein he gives my son the whole name of the war : he hath in this action outdone his former deeds doubly.

Val. In troth, there's wondrous things spoke of him.

Men. Wondrous? ay, I warrant you, and not without his true purchasing.

Vir. The gods grant them true!

Vol. True? pow, wow.

Men. True? I'll be sworn they are true :—Where is he wounded?—God save your good worships! [*To the Tribunes.*] Marcius is coming home : he has more cause to be proud.—Where is he wounded?

Vol. I' the shoulder, and i' the left arm : There will be large cicatrices to shew the people, when he shall

⁷ —is but empiric,] The old copy reads—is but empirick *utique*—of which the reader must make what he can. STEEVENS.

⁸ possess'd of this?] *Possess'd*, in our authour's language, is fully informed. JOHNSON.

stand for his place. ⁹ He receiv'd in the repulse of Tarquin, seven hurts i' the body.

Men. One i' the neck, and one too i' the thigh ;— There's nine that I know.

Vol. He had, before this last expedition, twenty-five wounds upon him.

Men. Now 'tis twenty-seven : every gash was an enemy's grave : Hark, the trumpets.

[*A shout, and flourish.*]

Vol. These are the ushers of Marcius : before him he carries noise, and behind him he leaves tears ; Death, that dark spirit, in's nervy army doth lie ;
Which being advanc'd, declines, and then men die,

A Sennet. Trumpets sound. Enter Cominius the general, and Titus Lartius ; between them, Coriolanus, crown'd with an oaken garland ; with captains and soldiers, and a herald.

Her. Know, Rome, that all alone Marcius did fight Within Corioli' gates : where he hath won, With fame, a name to Caius Marcius ; these In honour follows, Coriolanus ² :—

⁹ *He receiv'd in the repulse of Tarquin, seven hurts i' the body.*

Men. One i' the neck, and two i' the thigh : there's nine that I know.] Seven,—one,—and two, and these make but nine ? Surely, we may safely assist Menenius in his arithmetick. This is a stupid blunder ; but wherever we can account by a probable reason for the cause of it, that directs the emendation. Here it was easy for a negligent transcriber to omit the second *one*, as a needless repetition of the first, and to make a numeral word of *too*.

WARBURTON.

The old man, agreeable to his character, is minutely particular : Seven wounds ? let me see ; one in the neck, two in the thigh—Nay I am sure there are more ; there are nine that I know of. UPTON.

² *Which being advanc'd, declines,*——Volumnia, in her boasting strain, says, that her son to kill his enemy, has nothing to do but to lift his hand up and let it fall. JOHNSON.

² —Coriolanus.] The old copy. *Martius Caius Coriolanus.*

STEEVENS.

Wel-

Welcome to Rome, renown'd Coriolanus !

[*Sound. Flourish.*]

All. Welcome to Rome, renown'd Coriolanus !

Cor. No more of this, it does offend my heart ;
Pray now, no more.

Com. Look, fir, your mother,——

Cor. O !

You have, I know, petition'd all the gods
For my prosperity.

[*Kneels.*]

Vol. Nay, my good soldier, up ;
My gentle Marcius, worthy Caius, and
By deed-atchieving honour newly nam'd,
What is it ? Coriolanus, must I call thee ?
But O, thy wife——

Cor. My gracious silence, hail !

Would'ft

³ *My gracious silence, hail !*] The epithet to *silence* shews it not to proceed from reserve or fullness, but to be the effect of a virtuous mind possessing itself in peace. The expression is extremely sublime ; and the sense of it conveys the finest praise that can be given to a good woman. WARBURTON.

By *my gracious silence*, I believe, the poet meant, *thou whose silent tears are more eloquent and grateful to me, than the clamorous applause of the rest !* So, Crashaw :

“ Sententious show'rs ! O ! let them fall !

“ Their cadence is rhetorical.”

Again, in the *Martial Maid* of Beaumont and Fletcher :

“ A lady's tears are silent orators,

“ Or should be so at least, to move beyond

“ The honey-tongued rhetorician.”

Again, in *Daniel's Complaint of Rosamond* ; 1599 :

“ Ah beauty, syren, fair enchanting good !

“ Sweet silent rhetorick of persuading eyes !

“ Dumb eloquence, whose power doth move the blood,

“ More than the words, or wisdom of the wise !”

Again, in *Every Man out of his Humour* :

“ You shall see sweet silent rhetorick, and dumb eloquence speaking in her eye.” STEEVENS.

I believe the meaning of *my gracious silence* is only *thou whose silence is so graceful and becoming*. Gracious seems to have had the same meaning formerly that *graceful* has at this day. So, in the *Merchant of Venice* :

“ But being season'd with a *gracious* voice.”

Again,

Would'st thou have laugh'd, had I come coffin'd
home,

That weep'st to see me triumph ? Ah, my dear,
Such eyes the widows in Corioli wear,
And mothers that lack sons.

Men. Now the gods crown thee !

Cor. And live you yet ?—O my sweet lady, pardon.
[To Valeria.]

Vol. I know not where to turn :—O welcome home ;
And welcome, general ;—And you are welcome all.

Men. A hundred thousand welcomes : I could
weep,
And I could laugh ; I am light, and heavy. Wel-
come :

A curse begin at very root of's heart,
That is not glad to see thee !—You are three,
That Rome should dote on : yet, by the faith of men,
We have some old crab-trees here at home, that
will not

Be grafted to your relish. Yet welcome, warriors :
We call a nettle, but a nettle ; and
The faults of fools, but folly.

Com. Ever right †.

Cor. Menenius, ever, ever.

Her. Give way there, and go on.

Again, in *Titus Andronicus* :

“ 'Tis not the difference of a year or two

“ Makes me less *gracious*, or thee more fortunate.”

Again, in *King Jobn* :

“ There was not such a *gracious* creature born.”

Again, in Marston's *Antonio and Mellida*, Part II :

“ Live *gracious* youth to close thy mother's eyes.”

Again, in *Lingua*, 1607 :

“ But all their speeches were so equal wrought,

“ And alike *gracious*.” MALONE.

† *Com.* Ever right.

Cor. Menenius, ever, ever.]

Rather, I think :

Com. Ever right Menenius.

Cor. Ever, ever. TYRWHITT,

Cor.

Cor. Your hand, and yours :

[To his wife and mother.

Ere in our own house I do shade my head,
The good patricians must be visited ;
From whom I have receiv'd not only greetings,
But with them change of honours.

Vol. I have liv'd

To see inherited my very wishes,
And the buildings of my fancy :
Only there's one thing wanting, which I doubt not,
But our Rome will cast upon thee.

Cor. Know, good mother,
I had rather be their servant in my way,
Than sway with them in theirs.

Com. On, to the Capitol. [Flourish. Cornets.

[Exeunt in state, as before.

Brutus and Sicinius come forward.

Bru. All tongues speak of him, and the bleared
sights

Are spectacled to see him : Your prattling nurse
Into a rapture lets her baby cry,
While she chats him : the kitchen malkin pins

Her

⁵ But, with them, change of honours.] So all the editions read. But Mr. Theobald has ventured (as he expresses it) to substitute, charge. For change, he thinks, is a very poor expression, and communicates but a very poor idea. He had better have told the plain truth, and confessed that it communicated none at all to him : However it has a very good one in itself ; and signifies variety of honours ; as change of rayment, among the writers of that time, signified variety of rayment. WARBURTON.

⁶ Into a rapture——] Rapture, a common term at that time used for a fit, simply. So, to be rap'd, signified, to be in a fit.

WARBURTON.

⁷ A maukin or malkin] A kind of mop made of clouts for the use of sweeping ovens : thence a frightful figure of clouts dressed up : thence a dirty wench. Maukin in some parts of England signifies a figure of clouts set up to fright birds in gardens, a scarecrow. P.

So,

Her richest lockram⁸ 'bout her reechy neck,
Clambering the walls to eye him : Stalls, bulks, win-
dows,

Are smother'd up, leads fill'd, and ridges hors'd
With variable complexions ; all agreeing
In earnestness to see him : ⁹ feld-shown flamens
Do press among the popular throngs, and puff
To win a vulgar station : our veil'd dames
¹ Commit the war of white and damask, in

Their

So, in the *Bride*, a comedy by Nabbes, 1640 :

" —you *malkin* of suburb authority, set up only to fright
crows from the carrion of the commonwealth."

After the morris-dance degenerated into a piece of coarse buffoonery, and *Maid Marian* was personated by a clown, this once elegant queen of May obtained the name of *Malkin*. To this Beaumont and Fletcher allude in *Monsieur Thomas* :

" Put on the shape of order and humanity,
" Or you must marry *Malkyn the May-Lady*."

STEEVENS.

⁸ *Her richest lockram, &c.*] *Lockram* was some kind of cheap linen. Greene, in his *Vision*, describing the dress of a man, says :

" His ruffe was of fine *lockeram*, stitched very faire with
Coventry blue."

Again, in the *Spanish Curate* of Beaumont and Fletcher, Diego says :

" I give per annum two hundred ells of *lockram*,
" That there be no strait dealings in their linnens."

Again, in Glapthorne's *Wit in a Constable*, 1639 :

" Thou thought'st, because I did wear *lockrams* shirts,
" I had no wit."

Again, in the *Northern Lass*, by Brome, 1633 :

" —let all the good you intended me, be a *lockram* coif,
a blue gown, and a clean whip." STEEVENS.

⁹ —*feld-shown flamens*] i. e. priests who *feldom* exhibit themselves to public view. The word is used in *Humour out of Breath*, a comedy, by John Day, 1607 :

" O *feld-seen* metamorphosis."

The same adverb occurs in the old play of *Hieronimo* :

" Why is not this a strange and *feld-seen* thing ?

Seld is often used by antient writers for *feldom*. So, in Kyd's *Cornelia*, 1595 :

" So that we *seld* are *seen* as wisdom would." STEEVENS.

¹ *Commit the war of white and damask, in
Their nicely gawdied checks, —*]

This

Their nicely gawded cheeks, to the wanton spoil
Of Phœbus' burning kisses: such a pother,
As if that whatsoever god, who leads him,
Were slyly crept into his human powers,
And gave him graceful posture.

Sic. On the sudden,
I warrant him consul.

Bru. Then our office may,
During his power, go sleep.

Sic. He cannot temperately transport his honours
From where he should begin, and end; but will
Lose those he hath won.

Bru. In that there's comfort.

This commixture of *white* and *red* could not, by any figure of speech be called a *war*, because it is the *agreement* and *union* of the colours that make the beauty. We should read:

——— *the ware of white and damask* ———

i. e. the commodity, the merchandize. *WARBURTON.*

Has the commentator never heard of roses *contending* with lilies for the empire of a lady's cheek? The *opposition* of colours, though not the *commixture*, may be called a *war*. *JOHNSON.*

So, in Shakespeare's *Tarquin and Lucrece*:

"The silent *war* of lilies and of roses,

"Which Tarquin view'd in her fair face's field."

Again, in the *Taming of the Shrew*:

"Such *war* of white and red, &c."

Again, in Chaucer's *Knight's Tale*, late edit. v. 1040:

"For with the rose colour *strof* hire hewe."

Again, in *Dametas' Madrigal in Praise of his Daphnis*, by J. Wootton; published in *England's Helicon*, 1614:

"Amidst her cheek the rose and lilly *strive*."

Again, in Massinger's *Great Duke of Florence*:

"——— the lillies

"*Contending with the roses* in her cheek." *STEEVENS.*

Clearland introduces this, according to his quaint manner:

"——— her cheeks,

"Where roses mix: no civill war

"Between her York and Lancaster." *FARMER.*

² *As if that whatsoever god, —*] That is, *as if that god who leads him, whatsoever god he be.* *JOHNSON.*

³ *From where he should begin, and end; —*] Perhaps it should be read:

From where he should begin t'an end. — *JOHNSON.*

Sic.

Sic. Doubt not,
The commoners, for whom we stand, but they,
Upon their ancient malice, will forget,
With the least cause, these his new honours ; which
That he will give them, make I as little question
* As he is proud to do't.

Bru. I heard him swear,
Were he to stand for consul, never would he
Appear i'the market-place, nor on him put
The napless vesture⁵ of humility ;
Nor, shewing (as the manner is) his wounds
To the people, beg their stinking breaths.

Sic. 'Tis right.

Bru. It was his word : O, he would miss it, rather
Than carry it, but by the suit o' the gentry to him,
And the desire of the nobles.

Sic. I wish no better,
Than have him hold that purpose, and to put it
In execution.

Bru. 'Tis most like, he will.

Sic. It shall be to him then, as our good will's⁶,
A sure destruction.

Bru. So it must fall out
To him, or our authorities. For an end,
We must suggest the people, in what hatred
He still hath held them ; that, to his power, he
would
Have made them mules, silenc'd their pleaders, and
Disproperty'd their freedoms : holding them,

* *As he is proud to do't.*] I should rather think the author wrote
prone: because the common reading is scarce sense or English.

WARBURTON.

Proud to do, is the same as, *proud of doing*, very plain sense,
and very common English. JOHNSON.

⁵ *The napless vesture*] The players read—the *Naples*,——

STEEVENS.

⁶ *It shall be to him then, as our good wills,*

A sure destruction.]

This should be written *will's* for *will is*. TYRWHITT.

In human action and capacity,
Of no mote soul, nor fitness for the world,
Than camels in their war; who have their provand⁷
Only for bearing burdens, and fore blows
For sinking under them.

Sic. This, as you say, suggested
At some time when his soaring insolence
Shall reach the people, (which time shall not want,
If he be put upon't; and that's as easy,
As to set dogs on sheep) will be the fire⁸
To kindle their dry stubble; and their blaze
Shall darken him for ever.

Enter a Messenger.

Bru. What's the matter?

Mes. You are sent for to the Capitol. 'Tis thought,
That Marcius shall be consul: I have seen
The dumb men throng to see him, and the blind
To hear him speak: Matrons flung gloves,
Ladies and maids their scarfs and handkerchiefs,
Upon him as he pass'd: the nobles bended,

⁷ —their provand] So the old copy, and rightly, though all the modern editors read *provender*. The following instances may serve to establish the ancient reading. Thus, in Stowe's *Chronicle*, edit. 1615, p. 737: "—the *provaunte* was cut off, and every foldier had half a crowne a weeke." Again: "The horsmenne had foure shillings the weeke loane, to find them and their horse, which was better than the *provaunt*." Again, in Sir Walter Raleigh's *Works*, 1751, Vol. II. p. 229. Again, in Hakevil on the *Providence of God*, p. 118, or Lib. II. c. vii. sect. 1: "—At the siege of Luxenburge, 1543, the weather was so cold, that the *provant* wine, ordained for the army, being frozen, was divided with hatchets, &c." Again, in *Pasquil's Nightcap*, &c. 1623:

"Sometimes seeks change of pasture and *provant*,

"Because her commons be at home so scant."

The word appears to be derived from the French, *provende*, *provender*. STEEVENS.

⁸ —the fire.] The folio reads—*his* fire—Perhaps we should read—as fire. MALONE.

As

As to Jove's statue; and the commons made
A shower, and thunder, with their caps, and shouts :
I never saw the like.

Bru. Let's to the Capitol;
And⁹ carry with us ears and eyes for the time,
But hearts for the event.

Sic. Have with you.

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE II.

The Capitol.

Enter two Officers, to lay cushions¹.

1 Off. Come come, they are almost here : How many stand for consulships ?

2 Off. Three, they say : but 'tis thought of every one, Coriolanus will carry it.

1 Off. That's a brave fellow ; but he's vengeance proud, and loves not the common people.

2 Off. 'Faith, there have been many great men that have flatter'd the people, who ne'er lov'd them ; and there be many that they have lov'd, they know not wherefore : so that, if they love they know not why, they hate upon no better a ground : Therefore, for Coriolanus neither to care whether they love, or hate him, manifests the true knowledge he has in their disposition ; and, out of his noble carelessness, lets them plainly see't.

1 Off. If he did not care whether he had their love, or no, ² he wou'd indifferently 'twixt doing them neither good, nor harm ; but he seeks their hate with

⁹ ——— *carry with us ears and eyes, &c.*] That is, let us observe what passes, but keep our hearts fixed on our design of crushing Coriolanus. JOHNSON.

¹ *Enter two officers, &c.*] The old copy reads : " Enter two officers to lay cushions, as it were, in the capitoll." STEEVENS.

² *he wou'd*] That is, *he would wave indifferently.* JOHNSON.

greater devotion than they can render it him; and leaves nothing undone, that may fully discover him their opposite. Now, to seem to affect the malice and displeasure of the people, is as bad as that which he dislikes, to flatter them for their love.

2 *Off.* He hath deserved worthily of his country : And his ascent is not by such easy degrees as those, who have been ³ supple and courteous to the people ; bonnetted, without any further deed to heave them at all into their estimation and report : but he hath so planted his honours in their eyes, and his actions in their hearts, that for their tongues to be silent, and not confess so much, were a kind of ingrateful injury ; to report otherwise, were a malice, that, giving itself the lye, would pluck reproof and rebuke from every ear that heard it.

1 *Off.* No more of him ; he is a worthy man : Make way, they are coming.

A Sennet. Enter the Patricians, and the Tribunes of the people, Licitors before them ; Coriolanus, Menenius, Cominius the Consul : Sicinius and Brutus, as Tribunes, take their places by themselves.

Men. Having determin'd of the Volces, and To send for Titus Lartius, it remains,
As the main point of this our after-meeting,
To gratify his noble service, that
Hath thus stood for his country : Therefore, please
you,
Most reverend and grave elders, to desire

³ *supple and courteous to the people ; bonnetted,*] The sense, I think, requires that we should read, *unbonnetted*. Who have risen only by pulling off their hats to the people. *Bonnetted* may relate to people, but not without harshness. JOHNSON.

Bonnetter, Fr. is to pull off one's cap, therefore there is no occasion to read *unbonnetted*. See Cotgrave.

The old copy reads—who *having* been—— STEEVENS.

The present consul, and last general
 In our well-found successes, to report
 A little of that worthy work perform'd
 By Caius Marcius Coriolanus ; whom
 We meet here, both to thank, and to remember
 With honours like himself.

1 Sen. Speak, good Cominius :

Leave nothing out for length ; and make us think,
 Rather our state's defective for requital,
 Than we to stretch it out.—Masters o' the people,
 We do request your kindest ear ; and, after,
⁴ Your loving motion toward the common body,
 To yield what passes here.

Sic. We are convented

Upon a pleasing treaty ; and have hearts
 Inclinal to honour and advance
⁵ The theme of our assembly.

Bru. Which the rather

We shall be blest to do, if he remember
 A kinder value of the people, than
 He hath hereto priz'd them at.

Men. ⁶ That's off, that's off ;

⁴ *Your loving motion toward the common body,*] Your kind interposition with the common people. JOHNSON.

⁵ *The theme of our assembly.*] Here is a fault in the expression : And had it affected our author's knowledge of nature, I should have adjudged it to his transcribers or editors ; but as it affects only his knowledge in history, I suppose it to be his own. He should have said *your assembly*. For till the *Lex Attinia*, (the author of which is supposed by Sigonius, [*De vetere Italiae Jure*] to have been contemporary with Quintus Metellus Macedonicus) the tribunes had not the privilege of entering the senate, but had seats placed for them near the door on the outside of the house.

WARBURTON.

Had Shakespeare been as learned as his commentator, he could not have conducted this scene otherwise than as it stands. The presence of Brutus and Sicinius was necessary ; and how was our author to have exhibited the outside and inside of the senate house at one and the same instant ? STEEVENS.

⁶ *That's off, that's off ;*] That is, that is nothing to the purpose.

JOHNSON.

I would

I would you rather had been silent : Please you
To hear Cominius speak ?

Bru. Most willingly :

But yet my caution was more pertinent,
Than the rebuke you give it.

Men. He loves your people ;
But tye him not to be their bed-fellow.—

Worthy Cominius, speak.—Nay, keep your place.

[*Coriolanus rises, and offers to go away.*

Sen. Sit, Coriolanus ; never shame to hear
What you have nobly done.

Cor. Your honours' pardon ;
I had rather have my wounds to heal again,
Than hear say how I got them.

Bru. Sir, I hope,
My words dis-bench'd you not ?

Cor. No, sir : yet oft,
When blows have made me stay, I fled from words.
You sooth'd not, therefore hurt not⁷ : But, your
people,

I love them as they weigh.

Men. Pray now, sit down.

Cor. I had rather have one scratch my head i' the
fun,
When the alarum were struck, than idly sit
To hear my nothings monster'd. [*Exit Coriolanus.*

Men. Masters o' the people,
Your multiplying spawn⁸ how can he flatter,
(That's thousand to one good one) when you now
see,

⁷ *You sooth not, therefore hurt not.*] The old copy reads :

You sooth'd not————

I think rightly.—You *did not* flatter me, and therefore did not
offend me.—*Hurt* is commonly used by our author for *hurted*.

MALONE.

⁸ ————— *how can he flatter,*] The reasoning of Menenius is
this : How can he be expected to practise flattery to others, who
abhors it so much, that he cannot bear it even when offered to
himself? JOHNSON.

He had rather venture all his limbs for honour,
Than one of his ears to hear it?—Proceed, Cominius.

Com. I shall lack voice : the deeds of Coriolanus
Should not be utter'd feebly.—It is held,
That valour is the chiefest virtue, and
Most dignifies the haver : if it be,
The man I speak of cannot in the world
Be singly counterpois'd. At sixteen years,
° When Tarquin made a head for Rome, he fought
Beyond the mark of others : our then dictator,
Whom with all praise I point at, saw him fight,
When with his Amazonian chin¹ he drove
The bristled lips before him : he bestrid
An o'er-prest Roman, and i' the consul's view
Slew three opposers ; Tarquin's self he met,
And struck him on his knee : in that day's feats,
When he might act the woman in the scene²,
He prov'd best man i' the field, and for his meed
Was brow-bound with the oak. His pupil age
Man-enter'd thus, he waxed like a sea ;
And, in the brunt of seventeen battles since,
He lurch'd all swords o'the garland³. For this last,
Before and in Corioli, let me say,
I cannot speak him home : He stopt the fliers ;
And, by his rare example, made the coward
Turn terror into sport : as waves before

° *When Tarquin made a head for Rome,*—] When Tarquin who had been expelled, raised a power to recover Rome.

JOHNSON.

¹ ———his Amazonian chin——] i. e. his chin on which there was no beard. The players read, *shinne*. STEEVENS.

² *When he might act the woman in the scene,*] It has been more than once mentioned, that the parts of women were, in Shakespeare's time, represented by the most smooth-faced young men to be found among the players. STEEVENS.

³ *He lurch'd all swords o' the garland.*] Ben Jonson has the same expression in the *Silent Woman* : “—you have lurch'd your friends of the better half of the garland.” STEEVENS.

A ves-

A vessel under fail, so men obey'd,
And fell below his stem⁴ : his sword (death's
stamp⁵)

Where it did mark, it took ; from face to foot
He was a thing of blood, whose⁶ every motion
Was tim'd with dying cries : alone he enter'd
⁷ The mortal gate o'the city, which he painted
With shunless destiny⁸ ; aidless came off,
And with a sudden re-inforcement struck
Corioli, like a planet : Now all's his :
When by and by the din of war 'gan pierce
His ready sense : then straight his doubled spirit
Re-quicken'd what in flesh was fatigate,
And to the battle came he ; where he did
Run reeking o'er the lives of men, as if

⁴ *And fell below his stern.*——] We should read, according to the old copy :

—— *his stern.* ——

The *stem* is that end of the ship which leads. From *stem* to *stern* is an expression used by Dryden in his translation of *Virgil* :

“ Orontes' bark ——

“ From *stem* to *stern* by waves was over-borne.”

STEEVENS.

⁵ —— *His sword, death's stamp,*
Where it did mark, it took from face to foot.
He was a thing of blood, whose every motion
Was tim'd with dying cries.]

This passage should be pointed thus :

—— *His sword (death's stamp)*

Where it did mark, it took ; from face to foot

He was a thing of blood, &c. TYRWHITT.

I have followed the punctuation recommended. STEEVENS.

⁶ —— *every motion*

Was tim'd with dying cries. ——]

The cries of the slaughter'd regularly followed his motions, as musick and a dancer accompany each other. JOHNSON.

⁷ *The mortal gate* ——] The gate that was made the scene of death. JOHNSON.

⁸ *With shunless destiny :*] The second folio reads, whether by accident or choice :

With shunless defamy.

Defamy is an old French word signifying *insamy*. TYRWHITT.

'Twere a perpetual spoil : and, 'till we call'd
Both field and city ours, he never stood
To ease his breast with panting.

Men. Worthy man !

1 Sen. ' He cannot but with measure fit the honours

Which we devise him.

Com. Our spoils he kick'd at ;
And look'd upon things precious, as they were
The common muck o' the world : he covets less
' Than misery itself would give ; rewards
His deeds with doing them ; ² and is content
To spend his time, to end it.

Men. He's right noble ;
Let him be call'd for.

⁹ *He cannot but with measure fit the honours,*] That is, no honour will be too great for him ; he will shew a mind equal to any elevation. JOHNSON.

¹ *Than misery itself would give ; —*] *Misery* for avarice ; because a *miser* signifies an avaricious. WARBURTON.

² *Com.* ——— and is content
To spend his time to end it.

Men. He's right noble.

The last words of Cominius's speech are altogether unintelligible. Shakespeare, I suppose, wrote the passage thus :

——— and is content

To spend his time ———

Men. To end it, he's right noble.

Cominius, in his last words, was entering upon a new topic in praise of Coriolanus ; when his warm friend Menenius, impatient to come to the subject of the honours designed him, interrupts Cominius, and takes him short with, — *to end it*, i. e. to end this long discourse in one word, *he's right noble*. — *Let him be called for*. This is exactly in character, and restores the passage to sense.

WARBURTON.

I know not whether my conceit will be approved, but I cannot forbear to think that our authour wrote thus :

——— he rewards

His deeds with doing them, and is content

To spend his time, to spend it.

To do great acts, for the sake of doing them ; to spend his life, for the sake of spending it. JOHNSON.

1 Sen.

1 Sen. Call Coriolanus.

Off. He doth appear.

Re-enter Coriolanus.

Men. The senate, Coriolanus, are well pleas'd
To make thee consul.

Cor. I do owe them still
My life, and services.

Men. ³ It then remains,
That you do speak to the people.

Cor. I do beseech you,
Let me o'er-leap that custom ; for I cannot
Put on the gown, stand naked, and entreat them,
For my wounds' sake, to give their suffrage : please
you,

That I may pass this doing.

Sic. Sir, the people
Must have their voices ; neither will they bate
One jot of ceremony.

Men. Put them not to't :
Pray you, go fit you to the custom ; and
Take to you, as your predecessors have,
Your honour with your form.

³ *It then remains,*

That you do speak to the people.]

Coriolanus was banished U. C. 262. But till the time of Manlius Torquatus, U. C. 393, the senate chose *both* the consuls : And then the people, assisted by the seditious temper of the tribunes, got the choice of one. But if he makes Rome a democracy, which at this time was a perfect aristocracy ; he sets the balance even in his *Timon*, and turns Athens, which was a perfect democracy, into an aristocracy. But it would be unjust to attribute this entirely to his ignorance ; it sometimes proceeded from the too powerful blaze of his imagination, which when once lighted up, made all acquired knowledge fade and disappear before it. For sometimes again we find him, when occasion serves, not only writing up to the truth of history, but fitting his sentiments to the nicest manners of his peculiar subject, as well to the *dignity* of his characters, or the *dictates* of nature in general.

WARBURTON.

Cor. It is a part
That I shall blush in acting, and might well
Be taken from the people.

Bru. Mark you that?

Cor. To brag unto them,—Thus I did, and thus;—
Shew them the unaking scars, which I should hide,
As if I had receiv'd them for the hire
Of their breath only:—

Men. Do not stand upon't.—
We recommend to you, tribunes of the people,
Our purpose to them;—and to our noble consul
Wish we all joy and honour.

Sen. To Coriolanus come all joy and honour!

[*Flourish cornets. Then Exeunt.*]

Manent Sicinius, and Brutus.

Bru. You see how he intends to use the people.

Sic. May they perceive his intent! He will require
them,

As if he did condemn what he requested
Should be in them to give.

Bru. Come, we'll inform them
Of our proceedings here: on the market place,
I know, they do attend us. [*Exeunt.*]

S C E N E III.

The Forum.

Enter seven or eight Citizens.

1 Cit. * Once, if he do require our voices, we
ought not to deny him.

* *Once,*] *Once* here means the same as when we say, *once for all.* WARBURTON.

This use of the word *once* is found in the *Supposes* by Gascogne:

“*Once, twenty-four ducattes he cost me.*” FARMER.

2 Cit.

2 *Cit.* We may, fir, if we will.

3 *Cit.* ' We have power in ourselves to do it, but it is a power that we have no power to do : for if he shew us his wounds, and tell us his deeds, we are to put our tongues into those wounds, and speak for them ; so, if he tell us his noble deeds, we must also tell him our noble acceptance of them. Ingratitude is monstrous : and for the multitude to be ingrateful, were to make a monster of the multitude ; of the which, we being members, should bring ourselves to be monstrous members.

1 *Cit.* And to make us no better thought of, a little help will serve : for once, when we stood up about the corn, he himself stuck not to call us—the^o many-headed multitude.

3 *Cit.* We have been call'd so of many ; not that our heads are some brown, some black, some auburn⁷, some bald, but that our wits are so diversly colour'd : and truly, I think, ⁸ if all our wits were to

⁵ *We have power in ourselves to do it, but it is a power that we have no power to do :*] I am persuaded this was intended as a ridicule on the Augustine manner of defining *free-will* at that time in the schools. WARBURTON.

A ridicule may be intended, but the sense is clear enough. *Power* first signifies *natural power* or *force*, and then *moral power* or *right*. Davies has used the same word with great variety of meaning :

Use all thy powers that heavenly power to praise,

That gave thee power to do.—— JOHNSON.

Shakespeare could not mean to ridicule a circumstance of which it was hardly possible for him to have the least knowledge. He spent his time better than in reading scholastic trash. See the *Re-vival*, p. 436. STEEVENS.

⁶ *many-headed multitude.*] Hanmer reads, *many-headed monster*, but without necessity. To be *many-headed* includes *monstrousness*.

JOHNSON.

⁷ *some auburn,*] The folio reads, *some Abram*. I should unwillingly suppose this to be the true reading ; but we have already heard of *Cain* and *Abram*-coloured beards. STEEVENS.

⁸ *if all our wits were to issue out of one scull, &c.*] Meaning, though our having but one interest was most apparent, yet our wishes and projects would be infinitely discordant. This mean-
ing

to issue out of one scull, they would fly east, west, north, south; and their consent of one direct way should be at once to all the points o' the compass.

2 *Cit.* Think you so? Which way, do you judge, my wit would fly?

3 *Cit.* Nay, your wit will not so soon out as another man's will, 'tis strongly wedg'd up in a block-head: but if it were at liberty, 'twould, sure, southward.

2 *Cit.* Why that way?

3 *Cit.* To lose itself in a fog; where being three parts melted away with rotten dews, ' the fourth would return for conscience sake, to help to get thee a wife.

2 *Cit.* You are never without your tricks:—You may, you may.

3 *Cit.* Are you all resolv'd to give your voices? But that's no matter, the greater part carries it. I say, if he would incline to the people, there was never a worthier man.

Enter Coriolanus, and Menenius.

Here he comes, and in the gown of humility; mark his behaviour. We are not to stay all together, but to come by him where he stands, by ones, by twos, and by threes. He's to make his requests by particulars; wherein every one of us has a single honour, in giving him our own voices with our own tongues: therefore follow me, and I'll direct you how you shall go by him.

ing the Oxford editor has totally discharged, by changing the text thus,——*issue out of our sculls.* WARBURTON.

⁹ *the fourth would return for conscience sake, to help to get thee a wife.*] A sly satirical insinuation how small a capacity of wit is necessary for that purpose. But every day's experience of the sex's prudent disposal of themselves, may be sufficient to inform us how unjust it is. WARBURTON.

All. Content, content.

Men. O fir, you are not right; Have you not known

The worthiest men have done't?

Cor. What must I say?—

I pray, fir,—Plague upon't! I cannot bring
My tongue to such a pace:—Look, fir;—my
wounds;—

I got them in my country's service, when
Some certain of your brethren roar'd, and ran
From the noise of our own drums.

Men. O me, the gods!

You must not speak of that; you must desire them
To think upon you.

Cor. Think upon me? Hang 'em!

I would they would forget me, like the virtues
Which our divines lose by 'em.

Men. You'll mar all;

I'll leave you: Pray you, speak to 'em, I pray you,
In wholesome manner. [Exit.

Citizens approach,

Cor. Bid them wash their faces,
And keep their teeth clean.—So, here comes a brace.
You know the cause, firs, of my standing here.

1 Cit. We do, fir; tell us what hath brought you
to't.

Cor. Mine own desert.

2 Cit. Your own desert?

Cor. Ay, not mine own desire¹.

1 Cit. How! not your own desire?

Cor. No, fir: 'Twas never my desire yet
To trouble the poor with begging.

¹ not mine own desire.] The old copy—but mine own desire. If
but be the true reading, it must signify, as in the North—without.
STEEVENS.

1 *Cit.* You must think, if we give you any thing, we hope to gain by you.

Cor. Well then, I pray, your price o' the consulship?

1 *Cit.* The price is, to ask it kindly.

Cor. Kindly?

Sir, I pray, let me ha't: I have wounds to shew you, Which shall be yours in private.—Your good voice, fir;

What say you?

Both Cit. You shall have it, worthy fir.

Cor. A match, fir:—There's in all two worthy voices begg'd:—

I have your alms; adieu.

1 *Cit.* But this is something odd.

2 *Cit.* An'twere to give again,—But 'tis no matter.

[*Exeunt.*]

Enter two other Citizens.

Cor. Pray you now, if it may stand with the tune of your voices, that I may be consul, I have here the customary gown.

1 *Cit.* You have deserv'd nobly of your country, and you have not deserv'd nobly.

Cor. Your ænigma?

1 *Cit.* You have been a scourge to her enemies, you have been a rod to her friends; you have not, indeed, loved the common people.

Cor. You should account me the more virtuous, that I have not been common in my love. I will, fir, flatter my sworn brother the people, to earn a dearer estimation of them; 'tis a condition they account gentle: and since the wisdom of their choice is rather to have my hat than my heart, I will practise the insinuating nod, and be off to them most counterfeitedly; that is, fir, I will counterfeit the bewitchment of some popular man, and give it bountifully to

to the desirers. Therefore, beseech you, I may be
consul.

² *Cit.* We hope to find you our friend ; and there-
fore give you our voices heartily.

¹ *Cit.* You have received many wounds for your
country.

Cor. ² I will not seal your knowledge with shewing
them. I will make much of your voices, and so
trouble you no further.

Both. The gods give you joy, sir, heartily !

[*Exeunt.*

Cor. Most sweet voices !—

Better it is to die, better to starve,
Than crave the hire which first we do deserve.

³ Why in this woolvish gown should I stand here,
To

² *I will not seal your knowledge*] I will not strengthen or com-
pleat your knowledge. The seal is that which gives authenticity
to a writing. JOHNSON.

³ *Why———should I stand here,*
To beg of Hob and Dick, that do appear,
Their needles voucher?———]

Why stand I here in this ragged apparel to beg of Hob and Dick,
and such others as *make their appearance* here, their *unnecessary*
votes. I rather think we should read :

Their needles vouchers.

But *voucher* may serve, as it may perhaps signify either the act
or the agent. JOHNSON.

The old copy reads :

Their needles vouchers. STEEVENS.

———*this woolvish gown*] Signifies this *rough hirsute gown*.

JOHNSON.

I own I was surprized, on consulting the old copy, to find the
passage printed thus :

“ Why in this woolvish *tongue*.”

Mr. Rowe received *gown* from the second folio, and has been
followed (perhaps without necessity) by all the editors.

The white robe worn by a candidate was made, I think, of
white lamb skins. How comes it then to be called *woolvish*, unless
in allusion to the fable of the *wolf in sheep's cloathing* ? Perhaps
the poet meant only, *Why do I stand with a tongue deceitful as that*
of the wolf, and seem to flatter those whom I could wish to treat with
my usual ferocity ? We may perhaps more distinctly read :

———*with*

To beg of Hob, and Dick, that does appear,
 Their needless vouches? Custom calls me to't:—
 What custom wills, in all things should we do't,
 The dust on antique time would lie unswept,
 And mountainous error be too highly heap'd
 For truth to over-peer.—Rather than fool it so,
 Let the high office and the honour go
 To one that would do thus.—I am half through;
 The one part suffer'd, the other will I do.

Enter three Citizens more.

Here come more voices.—

Your voices: for your voices I have fought;
 Watch'd for your voices; for your voices, bear
 Of wounds two dozen odd; battles thrice fix⁴

I have

——— *with this woolvish tongue,*
 unless *tongue* be used for *tone* or *accent*. *Tongue* might, indeed,
 be only a typographical mistake, and the word designed be *toge*,
 which is used in *Othello*. Shakespeare, however, does not appear
 to have known what the *toga hirsuta* was, because he has just be-
 fore called it the *naples's* gown of humility.

Since the foregoing note was written, I met with the following
 passage in "A Merye Jest of a Man called *Howleglas*," bl. l. no
 date. *Howleglas* hired himself to a taylor, who "caste unto
 him a husbandmans gowne, and bad him take a *wolfe*, and make
 it up.—Than cut *Howleglas* the husbandmans gowne and made
 thereof a *woulfe* with the head and feete, &c. Then sayd the
 maister, I ment that you should have made up the russet gown,
 for a husbandman's gowne is here called a *wolfe*." By a *wolvish*
 gown, therefore, (if *gown* be the true reading) Shakespeare might
 have meant *Coriolanus* to compare the *dress of a Roman candidate*
 to the *coarse frock of a ploughman*, who exposed himself to solicit
 the votes of his fellow rusticks. STEEVENS.

Why in this wolvish tongue.] The old copy's reading *in* and
 not *with* shews that *tongue* was, as Mr. Steevens conjectures, an
 error of the press for *toge*. The very same mistake has happen-
 ed in *Othello*, where we meet "the *tongued* consuls," instead of
toged consuls. MALONE.

⁴ *Coriolanus* seems now, in earnest, to petition for the consulate:
 perhaps we may better read:

——battles

I have seen, and heard of; for your voices, have
Done many things, some less, some more: your
voices:

Indeed, I would be consul.

1 Cit. He has done nobly, and cannot go without
any honest man's voice.

2 Cit. Therefore let him be consul: The gods
give him joy, and make him good friend to the
people!

All. Amen, amen.—God save thee, noble consul!

[*Exeunt.*]

Cor. Worthy voices!

Enter Menenius, with Brutus, and Sicinius.

Men. You have stood your limitation; and the
tribunes

Endue you with the people's voice: Remains,
That, in the official marks invested, you
Anon do meet the senate.

Cor. Is this done?

Sic. The custom of request you have discharg'd:
The people do admit you; and are summon'd
To meet anon, upon your approbation.

Cor. Where? at the senate-house?

Sic. There, Coriolanus.

Cor. May I change these garments?

Sic. You may, sir.

Cor. That I'll straight do; and, knowing myself
again,

Repair to the senate-house.

Men. I'll keep you company.—Will you along?

Bru. We stay here for the people.

Sic. Fare you well.

[*Exeunt Coriol. and Men.*]

——battles thrice six

*I've seen, and you have heard of; for your voices
Done many things, &c. FARMER.*

He

He has it now ; and by his looks, methinks,
'Tis warm at his heart.

Bru. With a proud heart he wore
His humble weeds : Will you dismiss the people ?

Re-enter Citizens.

Sic. How now, my masters ? have you chose this
man ?

1 Cit. He has our voices, fir.

Bru. We pray the gods, he may deserve your loves.

2 Cit. Amen, fir : To my poor unworthy notice,
He mock'd us, when he begg'd our voices.

3 Cit. Certainly, he flouted us down-right.

1 Cit. No, 'tis his kind of speech, he did not mock
us.

2 Cit. Not one amongst us, save yourself, but says,
He us'd us scornfully : he should have shew'd us
His marks of merit, wounds receiv'd for his country.

Sic. Why, so he did, I am sure.

All. No, no man saw 'em.

3 Cit. He said, he had wounds, which he could
shew in private ;

And with his hat, thus waving it in scorn,

I would be consul, says he : ⁴ *aged custom,*

But by your voices, will not so permit me ;

Your voices therefore : When we granted that,

Here was,—I thank you for your voices,—thank you,—

Your most sweet voices :—now you have left your voices,

*I have nothing further with you :—Was not this mock-
ery ?*

Sic. Why, either, were you ' ignorant to see't ?

Or,

⁴ ————*aged custom,*] This was a strange inattention. The Romans at this time had but lately changed the regal for the consular government : for Coriolanus was banished the eighteenth year after the expulsion of the kings. *WARBURTON.*

⁵ ————*ignorant to see't ?*] The Oxford editor alters *ignorant*

Or, seeing it, of such childish friendliness
To yield your voices ?

Bru. Could you not have told him,
As you were lesson'd,—When he had no power,
But was a petty servant to the state,
He was your enemy ; ever spake against
Your liberties, and the charters that you bear
I' the body of the weal : and now, arriving^o
A place of potency, and sway o' the state,
If he should still malignantly remain
Fast foe to the plebeii, your voices might
Be curses to yourselves : You should have said,
That, as his worthy deeds did claim no less
Than what he stood for ; so his gracious nature
Would think upon you for your voices, and
Translate his malice towards you into love,
Standing your friendly lord.

Sic. Thus to have said,
As you were fore-advis'd, had touch'd his spirit,
And try'd his inclination ; from him pluck'd
Either his gracious promise, which you might,
As cause had call'd you up, have held him to ;
Or else it would have gall'd his furlly nature,
Which easily endures not article,
Tying him to aught ; so, putting him to rage,
You should have ta'en the advantage of his choler,
And pass'd him unelected.

to *impotent*, not knowing that *ignorant* at that time signified *impotent*. WARBURTON.

That *ignorant* at any time has, otherwise than consequentially, the same meaning with *impotent*, I do not know. It has no such meaning in this place. *Were you ignorant to see it*, is, did you want knowledge to discern it. JOHNSON.

^o ——— *arriving*

A place of potency,

Thus the old copy, and rightly. So in the third part of *K. Henry VI.* act V. sc. iii :

“ ——— those powers that the queen

“ Hath rais'd in Gallia, have arriv'd our coast.

STEEVENS.

Which most gibingly, ungravely, he did fashion
After the inveterate hate he bears you:

Bru. Lay

A fault on us, your tribunes ; that we labour'd,
(No impediment between) but that you must
Cast your election on him.

Sic. Say, you chose him

More after our commandment, than as guided
By your own true affections : and that, your minds
Pre-occupy'd with what you rather must do
Than what you should, made you against the grain
To voice him consul : Lay the fault on us.

Bru. Ay, spare us not. Say, we read lectures to
you,

How youngly he began to serve his country,
How long continued : and what stock he springs of,
The noble house o' the Marcians ; from whence
came

That Ancus Marcius, Numa's daughter's son,
Who, after great Hostilius, here was king :
Of the same house Publius and Quintus were,
That our best water brought by conduits hither ;
² And Censorinus, darling of the people,
And nobly nam'd so, twice being censor,
³ Was his great ancestor:

Sic.

² *And Censorinus, darling of the people,*] This verse I have supplied ; a line having been certainly left out in this place, as will appear to any one who consults the beginning of Plutarch's *Life of Coriolanus*, from whence this passage is directly translated.

POPE:

³ *And Censorinus———*
Was his great ancestor.]

Now the first censor was created U.C. 314, and Coriolanus was banished U.C. 262. The truth is this, the passage, as Mr. Pope observes above, was taken from Plutarch's *Life of Coriolanus* ; who, speaking of the house of Coriolanus, takes notice both of his *ancestors* and of his *posterity*, which our author's haste not giving him leave to observe, has here confounded one with the other. Another instance of his inadvertency, from the same cause, we

Sic. One thus descended,
That hath beside well in his person wrought
To be set high in place, we did commend
To your remembrances : but you have found,
4 Scaling his present bearing with his past,
That he's your fixed enemy, and revoke
Your sudden approbation.

Bru. Say, you ne'er had don't,
(Harp on that still) but by our putting on :
And presently, when you have drawn your number,
Repair to the Capitol.

All. We will so : almost all
Repent in their election. [*Exeunt Citizens.*]

Bru. Let them go on ;
This mutiny were better put in hazard,
Than stay, past doubt, for greater :
If, as his nature is, he fall in rage
With their refusal, both 5 observe and answer
The vantage of his anger.

Sic. To the Capitol, come ;
We will be there before the stream o' the people ;
And this shall seem, as partly 'tis, their own,
Which we have goaded onward. [*Exeunt.*]

have in the first part of *Henry IV.* where an account is given of
the prisoners took on the plains of Holmedon :

Mordake the earl of Fife, and eldest son

To beaten Douglas —

But the earl of Fife was not son to Douglas, but to Robert duke
of Albany, governor of Scotland. He took his account from *Hol-
lished*, whose words are, *And of prisoners amongst others were
these, Mordack earl of Fife, son to the governor Arkimbald, earl
Douglas, &c.* And he imagined that the governor and earl Doug-
las were one and the same person. WARBURTON.

4 Scaling his present bearing with his past, That is, weighing his
past and present behaviour. JOHNSON.

5 ——— observe and answer

The vantage of his anger.]

Mark, catch, and improve the opportunity, which his hasty
-anger will afford us. JOHNSON.

A C T III. S C E N E I.

A Street.

Cornets. Enter Coriolanus, Menenius, Cominius, Titus Lartius, and other Senators.

Cor. Tullus Aufidius then had made new head ?

Lart. He had, my lord ; and that it was, which caus'd

Our swifter composition.

Cor. So then the Volces stand but as at first ;
Ready, when time shall prompt them, to make road
Upon us again.

Com. They are worn, lord consul, so,
That we shall hardly in our ages see
Their banners wave again.

Cor. Saw you Aufidius ?

Lart. On safe-guard he came to me ; and did curse
Against the Volces, for they had so vilely
Yielded the town : he is retir'd to Antium.

Cor. Spoke he of me ?

Lart. He did, my lord.

Cor. How ? what ?

Lart. How often he had met you, sword to sword :
That, of all things upon the earth, he hated
Your person most : that he would pawn his fortunes
To hopeless restitution, so he might
Be call'd your vanquisher.

Cor. At Antium lives he ?

Lart. At Antium.

Cor. I wish I had a cause to seek him there,
To oppose his hatred fully.—Welcome home.

[To Lartius.]

Enter Sicinius, and Brutus.

Behold ! these are the tribunes of the people,
The tongues o'the common mouth. I do despise
them ;

For they do ⁶prank them in authority,
Against all noble sufferance.

Sic. Pass no further.

Cor. Ha ! what is that ?

Bru. It will be dangerous to go on : no further.

Cor. What makes this change ?

Men. The matter ?

Com. Hath he not pass'd the nobles, and the commons ?

Bru. Cominius, no.

Cor. Have I had children's voices ?

Sen. Tribunes, give way ; he shall to the market-place.

Bru. The people are incens'd against him.

Sic. Stop,

Or all will fall in broil.

Cor. Are these your herd ?—

Must these have voices, that can yield them now,
And straight disclaim their tongues ?—What are
your offices ?

You being their mouths, ⁷ why rule you not their
teeth ?

Have you not set them on ?

Men. Be calm, be calm.

Cor. It is a purpos'd thing, and grows by plot,
To curb the will of the nobility :—

⁶ ———prank them in authority,] *Plume, deck, dignify them,*
selves. JOHNSON.

⁷ ———why rule you not their teeth ?] The metaphor is
from men's setting a bull-dog or mastiff upon any one.

WARBURTON.

Suffer't, and live with such as cannot rule,
Nor ever will be rul'd.

Bru. Call't not a plot :

The people cry, you mock'd them ; and, of late,
When corn was given them gratis, you repin'd ;
Scandal'd the suppliant for the people ; call'd them
Time-pleasers, flatterers, foes to nobleness.

Cor. Why, this was known before.

Bru. Not to them all.

Cor. Have you inform'd them since ?

Bru. How ! I inform them !

Cor. You are like to do such business.

Bru. ⁹ Not unlike,

Each way, to better yours.

Cor. Why then should I be consul ? By yon clouds,
Let me deserve so ill as you, and make me
Your fellow tribune.

Sic. You shew too much of that,
For which the people stir : If you will pass
To where you are bound, you must enquire your way,
Which you are out of, with a gentler spirit ;
Or never be so noble as a consul,
Nor yoke with him for tribune.

Men. Let's be calm.

Com. The people are abus'd :—Set on.—' This pal-
t'ring

Becomes not Rome ; nor has Coriolanus

De-

⁸ ——— *since.*] The old copy——*subhence.* STEEVENS.

⁹ ——— *Not unlike,*

Each way, to better yours.]

i. e. likely to provide better for the security of the commonwealth than you (whose *business* it is) will do. To which the reply is pertinent :

Why then should I be consul ?

Yet the restless humour of reformation in the Oxford editor disturbs the text to,

——— *better you.* WARBURTON.

' ——— *This pal'tring*

Becomes not Rome ;———]

That is, this trick of dissimulation, this shuffling.

Deserv'd this so dishonour'd rub, laid ³ falsly
 I² the plain way of his merit.

Cor. Tell me of corn !

This was my speech, and I will speak't again ;—

Men. Not now, not now.

Sen. Not in this heat, sir, now.

Cor. Now, as I live, I will.—My nobler friends,
 I crave their pardons :—

For the mutable, rank-scented many, let them ⁴

Regard me as I do not flatter, and

Therein behold themselves : I say again,

In soothing them, we nourish 'gainst our senate

⁵ The cockle of rebellion, insolence, sedition,

Which we ourselves have plough'd for, sow'd and scat-
 ter'd,

By mingling them with us, the honour'd number ;

Who lack not virtue, no, nor power, but that

Which they have given to beggars.

Men. Well, no more.

Sen. No more words, we beseech you.

Cor. How ! no more ?

As for my country I have shed my blood,

Not fearing outward force, so shall my lungs

Coin words 'till their decay, against those meazels *,

And be these juggling fiends no more believ'd,

That palter with us in a double sense. Macbeth. JOHNSON.

³ ——— laid falsly] *Falsly for treacherously.* JOHNSON.

⁴ ——— let them

Regard me as I do not flatter, and

Therein behold themselves : —]

Let them look in the mirror which I hold up to them, a mirror
 which does not flatter, and see themselves. JOHNSON.

⁵ *The cockle of rebellion, —*] *Cockle* is a weed which grows up
 with the corn. The thought is from sir Tho. North's trans-
 lation of *Plutarch*, where it is given as follows : " Moreover,
 he said, that they nourished against themselves the naughty seed
 and *cockle* of insolvency and sedition, which had been sowed and
 scattered abroad among the people, &c." STEEVENS.

* ——— *meazels,*] *Mesell* is used in *Pierce Plowman's Vision* for
 a leper. The same word frequently occurs in the *London Pro-*
digal. STEEVENS.

Which

Which we disdain should tetter us, yet fought
The very way to catch them.

Bru. You speak o' the people,
As if you were a god to punish, not
A man of their infirmity.

Sic. 'Twere well,
We let the people know't.

Men. What, what? his choler?

Cor. Choler!

Were I as patient as the midnight sleep,
By Jove, 'twould be my mind.

Sic. It is a mind
That shall remain a poison where it is,
Not poison any further.

Cor. Shall remain!—

Hear you this Triton of the ⁶ minnows? mark you
His absolute *shall*?

Com. ⁷ 'Twas from the canon.

Cor. *Shall*!

O gods!—But most unwise patricians, why,
You grave ⁸, but reckless senators, have you thus
Given Hydra here to choose an officer,
That with his peremptory *shall*, being but
⁹ The horn and noise o'the monsters, wants not spirit
To say, he'll turn your current in a ditch,
And make your channel his? If he have power,

⁶ —minnows?—] i. e. small fry. WARBURTON.

A minnow is one of the smallest river fish, called in some counties a pink. JOHNSON.

⁷ 'Twas from the canon.] Was contrary to the established rule; it was a form of speech to which he has no right. JOHNSON.

⁸ O gods!—but most unwise patricians, why
You grave, &c.]

Thus the old copy. Succeeding editors had altered it:

O good, but most unwise, &c.

When the only authentic copy affords sense, why should we depart from it? STEEVENS.

⁹ The horn and noise—] Alluding to his having called him Triton before. WARBURTON.

¹ Then vail your ignorance : if none, awake
 Your dangerous lenity. If you are learned,
 Be not as common fools ; if you are not,
 Let them have cushions by you. ² You are plebeians,
 If they be senators : and they are no less,
 When, both your voices blended, the greatest taste
 Most palates theirs. They choose their magistrate ;
 And such a one as he, who puts his *shall*,
 His popular *shall*, against a graver bench
 Than ever frown'd in Greece ! By Jove himself,
 It makes the consuls base : ³ and my soul akes,

² *Then vail your ignorance ; —*] Ignorance for impotence ; because it makes impotent. The Oxford editor not understanding this, transposes the whole sentence according to what in his fancy is accuracy. WARBURTON.

Hanmer's transposition deserves notice.

— *If they have power,
 Let them have cushions by you ; if none, awake
 Your dang'rous lenity ; if you are learned,
 Be not as common fools ; if you are not,
 Then vail your ignorance. You are Plebeians, &c.*

I neither think the transposition of one editor right, nor the interpretation of the other. The sense is plain enough without supposing *ignorance* to have any remote or consequential sense. *If this man has power, let the ignorance that gave it him vail or bow down before him.* JOHNSON.

² — *You are plebeians,
 If they be senators ; and they are no less,
 When, both your voices blended, the greatest taste
 Most palates theirs. —*]

These lines may, I think, be made more intelligible by a very slight correction :

— *they no less [than senators]
 When, both your voices blended, the greatest taste
 Must palate theirs.*

When the *taste* of the great, the patricians, must *palate*, must *please* [or must try] that of the plebeians. JOHNSON.

The plain meaning is, *that senators and plebeians are equal, when the highest taste is best pleased with that which pleases the lowest.*

STEEVENS.

³ — *and my soul akes*] The mischief and absurdity of what is called *Imperium in imperia*, is here finely expressed.

WARBURTON.

To know, when two authorities are up,
Neither supreme, how soon confusion
May enter 'twixt the gap of both, and take
The one by the other.

Com. Well,—on to the market-place.

Cor. Whoever gave that counsel⁴, to give forth
The corn o'the store-house gratis, as 'twas us'd
Sometime in Græce,—

Men. Well, well, no more of that.

Cor. (Though there the people had more absolute
power)

I say, they nourish'd disobedience, fed
The ruin of the state.

Bru. Why, shall the people give
One, that speaks thus, their voice?

Cor. I'll give my reasons,

⁴ *Whoever gave that counsel, &c.*] So, in the old translation of *Plutarch*: "Therefore sayed he, they that gaue counsell, and persuaded that the corne should be giuen out to the common people gratis, as they vsed to doe in citties of Græce, where the people had more absolute power: dyd but only nourishe their disobedience, which would breake out in the ende, to the vtter ruine and ouerthrowe of the whole state. For they will not thincke it is done in recompense of their seruice past, sithence they know well enough they haue so ofte refused to go to the warres, when they were commaunded: neither for their mutinies when they went with vs, whereby they haue rebelled and forsaken their countrie: neither for their accusations which their flatterers haue preferred vnto them, and they haue recevued, and made good against the senate: but they will rather iudge we geue and graunt them this, as abasing our selues, and standing in feare of them, and glad to flatter them euery way. By this meanes, their disobedience will still growe worse and worse: and they will neuer leave to practise newe sedition, and vprores. Therefore it were a great follie for vs, me thinckes to do it: yea, shall I saye more? we should if we were wise, take from them their tribuneshippe, which most manifestly is the embasing of the consullshippe, and the cause of the diuision of the cittie. The state whereof as it standeth, is not now as it was wont to be, but becommeth dismembred in two factions, which mainteines allwayes ciuill dissention and discorde betwene vs, and will neuer suffer vs againe to be vnited into one bodie." STEEVENS.

More

More worthier than their voices. They know, the corn
 Was not our recompence ; resting well assur'd
 They ne'er did service for't : Being press'd to the war,
 Even when the navel of the state was touch'd,
 ' They would not thread the gates : this kind of service
 Did not deserve corn gratis : Being i' the war,
 Their mutinies and revolts, wherein they shew'd
 Most valour, spoke not for them : The accusation
 Which they have often made against the senate,
 All cause unborn, ⁶ could never be the native
 Of our so frank donation. Well, what then ?
 How shall this bosom multiplied digest
 The senate's courtesy ? Let deeds express
 What's like to be their words :—*We did request it ;—*
We are the greater poll, and in true fear
They gave us our demands :— Thus we debase
 The nature of our seats, and make the rabble
 Call our cares, fears : which will in time break ope
 The locks o' the senate, and bring in the crows
 To peck the eagles—

Men. Come, enough.

Bru. Enough, with over-measure.

Cor. ⁷ No, take more :

What

⁵ *They would not thread the gates ; —*] That is, *pass* them.
 We yet say, to *thread* an alley. JOHNSON.

⁶ *—could never be the native*] *Native* for natural birth.

WARBURTON.

Native is here not natural birth, but *natural parent*, or *cause of birth*. But I would read *motive*, which, without any distortion of its meaning, suits the speaker's purpose. JOHNSON.

⁷ *No, take more :*

What may be sworn by, both divine and human,

Seal what I end withal ! —]

The false pointing hath made this unintelligible. It should be read and pointed thus :

No, take more ;

What may be sworn by. Both divine and human,

Seal what I end withal ! —

i. e. No, I will still proceed, and the truth of what I shall say may
 be

What may be sworn by, both divine and human,
 Seal what I end withal !—This double worship,—
 Where one part does disdain with cause, the other
 Insult without all reason ; where gentry, title, wisdom
 Cannot conclude, but by the yea and no
 Of general ignorance,—it must omit
 Real necessities, and give way the while
 To unstable flightness : ⁸ purpose so barr'd, it follows,
 Nothing is done to purpose : Therefore, beseech
 you,—

You that will be less fearful than discreet ;
⁹ That love the fundamental part of state,
 More than you doubt the change of't ; that prefer
 A noble life before a long, and wish
 To jump a body ¹ with a dangerous physic,

That's

be sworn to. And may both divine and human powers, [i. e. the gods of Rome and the senate] confirm and support my conclusion.

WARBURTON.

⁸ ——— *purpose so barr'd, it follows,
 Nothing is done to purpose, ———*]

This is so like Polonius's eloquence, and so much unlike the rest of Coriolanus's language, that I am apt to think it spurious.

WARBURTON.

⁹ *That love the fundamental part of state,
 More than you doubt the change of't ; ———*]

i. e. Who are so wedded to accustomed forms in the administration, that in your care for the preservation of those, you overlook the danger the constitution incurs by strictly adhering to them. This the speaker, in vindication of his conduct, artfully represents to be his case ; yet this pertinent observation, the Oxford editor, with one happy dash of his pen, in amending *doubt to do*, entirely abolishes. WARBURTON.

To *doubt* is to *fear*. The meaning is, You whose zeal predominates over your terrors ; you who do not so much fear the danger of violent measures, as with the good to which they are necessary, the preservation of the original constitution of our government. JOHNSON.

¹ *To jump a body—*] Thus the old copy. Modern editors read :
To vamp ———

To *jump* anciently signified to *jolt*, to give a rude concussion to any thing. To *jump a body* may therefore mean, to put it into a violent agitation or commotion.

So,

That's sure of death without it,—at once pluck out
 The multitudinous tongue, let them not lick
 The sweet which is their poison : Your dishonour
² Mangles true judgment, and bereaves the state
 Of that integrity ¹ which should become it ;
 Not having power to do the good it would,
 For the ill which doth controul it.

Bru. He has said enough.

Sic. He has spoken like a traitor, and shall answer
 As traitors do.

Cor. Thou wretch ! despight o'erwhelm thee !—
 What should the people do with these bald tribunes ?
 On whom depending, their obedience fails
 To the greater bench : In a rebellion,
 When what's not meet, but what must be, was law,
 Then were they chosen ; in a better hour,
 Let what is meet, be said, ⁴ it must be meet,
 And throw their power i' the dust.

Bru. Manifest treason.

Sic. This a consul ? no.

Bru. The ædiles, ho !—Let him be apprehended.

So, in Phil. Holland's translation of *Pliny's Nat. Hist.* B. XXV. ch. v. p. 219 : " If we looke for good successe in our cure by ministring ellebore, &c. for certainly it putteth the patient to a *jumpe*, or great hazard." STEEVENS.

² *Mangles true judgment, —] Judgment for government.*

WARBURTON.

Judgment is *judgment* in its common sense, or the faculty by which right is distinguished from wrong. JOHNSON.

³ ———— *which should become it ;] Become, for adorn.*

WARBURTON.

Integrity is in this place *soundness*, uniformity, consistency, in the same sense as Dr. Warburton often uses it, when he mentions the *integrity* of a metaphor. To *become*, is to *suit*, to *besit*.

JOHNSON.

⁴ ———— *it must be meet,] Hammer reads :*

————— *it must be law.*

And Dr. Warburton follows him, surely without necessity.

JOHNSON.

Sic.

Sic. Go, call the people: [*Exit Brutus.*] in whose name, myself

Attach thee, as a traiterous innovator,
A foe to the publick weal: Obey, I charge thee,
And follow to thine answer.

Cor. Hence, old goat!

All. We'll surety him.

Com. Aged sir, hands off.

Cor. Hence, rotten thing, or I shall shake thy bones
Out of thy garments!

Sic. Help me, citizens.

*Re-enter Brutus, with a rabble of Citizens, with the
Ædiles.*

Men. On both sides more respect.

Sic. Here's he, that would
Take from you all your power.

Bru. Seize him, ædiles.

All. Down with him, down with him!

2 Sen. Weapons, weapons, weapons!

[*They all bustle about Coriolanus.*]

Tribunes, patricians, citizens!—what ho!—

Sicinius, Brutus, Coriolanus, citizens!

All. Peace, peace, peace; stay, hold, peace!

Men. What is about to be?—I am out of breath;
Confusion's near; I cannot speak:—You, tribunes
To the people⁶,—Coriolanus, patience:—
Speak, good Sicinius.

⁵ ———shake thy bones
Out of thy garments.]

So, in *K. John*:
“———here's a stay

“That shakes the rotten carcase of old death

“Out of his rags!” STEEVENS.

⁶ To the people,—Coriolanus, patience:] I would read:
Speak to the people. Coriolanus, patience:—
Speak, good Sicinius. TYRWHITT.

Sic. Hear me, people ;—Peace.

All. Let's hear our tribune :—Peace. Speak, speak, speak.

Sic. You are at point to lose your liberties :
 Marcius would have all from you ; Marcius,
 Whom late you nam'd for consul.

Men. Fie, fie, fie !

This is the way to kindle, not to quench.

Sen. To unbuild the city, and to lay all flat.

Sic. What is the city, but the people ?

All. True,

The people are the city.

Bru. By the consent of all, we were establish'd
 The people's magistrates.

All. You so remain.

Men. And so are like to do.

Cor. That is the way to lay the city flat ;
 To bring the roof to the foundation ;
 And bury all, which yet distinctly ranges,
 In heaps and piles of ruin.

Sic. This deserves death.

Bru. Or let us stand to our authority,
 Or let us lose it :—We do here pronounce,
 Upon the part o' the people, in whose power
 We were elected theirs, Marcius is worthy
 Of present death.

Sic. Therefore, lay hold of him ;
 Bear him to the rock Tarpeian, and from thence
 Into destruction cast him.

Bru. Ædiles, seize him.

All. Yield, Marcius, yield.

Men. Hear me one word.

Beseech you, tribunes, hear me but a word.

Ædiles. Peace, peace.

Men. Be that you seem, truly your country's friend,
 And temperately proceed to what you would
 Thus violently redress.

Bru.

Bru. Sir, those cold ways,
That seem like prudent helps, are ⁷ very poisonous
Where the disease is violent :—Lay hands upon him,
And bear him to the rock.

[*Coriolanus draws his sword.*]

Cor. No ; I'll die here.

There's some among you have beheld me fighting ;
Come, try upon yourselves what you have seen me.

Men. Down with that sword ;—Tribunes, with-
draw a while.

Bru. Lay hands upon him.

Men. Help, Marcius ! help,

You that be noble ; help him, young, and old !

All. Down with him, down with him ! [*Exeunt.*]

[*In this mutiny, the Tribunes, the Ædiles, and the
people are beat in.*]

Men. Go, get you to your house ; be gone, away,
All will be naught else.

² *Sen.* Get you gone.

³ *Cor.* Stand fast ;

We have as many friends as enemies.

Men. Shall it be put to that ?

¹ *Sen.* The gods forbid !

I pr'ythee, noble friend, home to thy house ;

Leave us to cure this cause.

Men. For 'tis a sore upon us,

You cannot tent yourself : Be gone, 'beseech you.

Com. Come, sir, along with us.

Cor. I would they were barbarians, (as they are
Though in Rome litter'd ;) not Romans, (as they are
not,

⁷ ————very poisonous,] I read :

————are very poisons. JOHNSON.

² *Com. Stand fast, &c.*] This speech certainly should be given
to Coriolanus ; for all his friends persuade him to retire. So,
Cominius presently after :

Come, sir, along with us. WARBURTON.

Though calv'd i' the porch o' the Capitol.)—Be gone ?

Men. Put not your worthy rage into your tongue ;
One time will owe another.

Cor. On fair ground,
I could beat forty of them.

Men. I could myself
Take up a brace of the best of them ; yea, the two
tribunes.

Com. But now 'tis odds beyond arithmetick ;
And manhood is call'd foolery, when it stands
Against a falling fabrick.—Will you hence,
Before the tag return ? whose rage doth rend
Like interrupted waters, and o'erbear
What they are us'd to bear.

Men. Pray you, be gone :
I'll try whether my old wit be in request
With those that have but little ; this must be patch'd
With cloth of any colour.

Com. Nay, come away.

[*Exeunt Coriolanus, and Cominius.*]

1 Sen. This man has marr'd his fortune.

Men. His nature is too noble for the world :

2 Men.] *I would they were barbarians (as they are
Though in Rome litter'd ;) not Romans (as they are not,
Tho' calv'd i' the porch o' the capitol.)—Begone, &c.*

The beginning of this speech, I am persuaded, should be given
to Coriolanus. The latter part only, belongs to Menenius :

—————*Begone.*

Put not your worthy rage, &c. TYRWHITT.

I have divided this speech according to Mr. Tyrwhitt's direction.

STEEVENS.

1 One time will owe another.] I know not whether to owe in
this place means to possess by right, or to be indebted. Either sense
may be admitted. *One time*, in which the people are seditious,
will give us power in some other time : or, *this time* of the people's
predominance will run them in debt : that is, will lay them open
to the law, and expose them hereafter to more servile subjection.

JOHNSON.

2 Before the tag return, —] The lowest and most despicable
of the populace are still denominated by those a little above them,
Tag, rag, and obtail. JOHNSON.

He would not flatter Neptune for his trident,
Or Jove for his power to thunder. His heart's his
mouth :

What his breast forges, that his tongue must vent ;
And, being angry, doth forget that ever
He heard the name of death. [*A noise within.*
Here's goodly work !

2 Sen. I would they were a-bed !

Men. I would they were in Tiber !——What, the
vengeance,
Could he not speak 'em fair ?

Enter Brutus, and Sicinius, with the rabble again.

Sic. Where is this viper,
That will depopulate the city, and
Be every man himself ?

Men. You worthy tribunes,—

Sic. He shall be thrown down the Tarpeian rock
With rigorous hands ; he hath resisted law,
And therefore law shall scorn him further trial
Than the severity of publick power,
Which he so sets at nought.

1 Cit. He shall well know,
The noble tribunes are the people's mouths,
And we their hands.

All. He shall sure out,

Men. Sir, fir,———

Sic. Peace.

Men. ¹ Do not cry, havock, where you should but
hunt

With

³ *Do not cry havock, ——*] i. e. Do not give the signal for unlimited slaughter, &c. STEEVENS.

*Do not cry havock, where you should but hunt
With modest warrant.]*

To cry havock, was, I believe, originally a sporting phrase, from hafoc, which in Saxon signifies a hawk. It was afterwards used in war. So, in K. John :

With modest warrant.

Sic. Sir, how comes it, that you
Have help to make this rescue?

Men. Hear me speak :—
As I do know the consul's worthiness,
So can I name his faults :—

Sic. Consul !—what consul ?

Men. The consul Coriolanus.

Bru. He consul !

All. No, no, no, no, no.

Men. If, by the tribunes' leave, and yours, good
people,
I may be heard, I'd crave a word or two ;
The which shall turn you to no further harm,
Than so much loss of time.

Sic. Speak briefly then ;
For we are peremptory, to dispatch
This viperous traitor : to eject him hence,
Were but one danger ; and, to keep him here,
Our certain death ; therefore, it is decreed,
He dies to-night.

Men. Now the good gods forbid,
That our renowned Rome, whose gratitude
Towards her deserved children is enroll'd
In Jove's own book, like an unnatural dam
Should now eat up her own !

“ ———— *Cry havock, kings.*”
And in *Julius Caesar* :

“ *Cry havock, and let slip the dogs of war.*”
It seems to have been the signal for general slaughter, and is expressly forbid in the *Ordinances des Batailles*, 9 R. ii. art. 10 :

“ Item, que nul soit si hardy de crier *havok* sur peine d'avoir la teste coupe.”

The second article of the same *Ordinances* seems to have been fatal to Bardolph. It was death even to touch the *pix of little price*.

“ Item qe nul soit si hardy *de toucher* le corps de nostre Seigneur, *ni le vessel en quel il est*, sur peyne d'estre trainez & pendu, et le teste avoir coupe.” *M.S. Cotton. Nero D. VI.*

TYRWHITT.

Sic.

Sic. He's a disease, that must be cut away.

Men. O, he's a limb, that has but a disease;
Mortal, to cut it off; to cure it, easy.
What has he done to Rome, that's worthy death?
Killing our enemies? The blood he hath lost,
(Which, I dare vouch, is more than that he hath,
By many an ounce) he dropp'd it for his country:
And, what is left, to lose it by his country,
Were to us all, that do't, and suffer it,
A brand to the end o' the world.

Sic. ⁴ This is clean kam.

Bru. Meerly awry: When he did love his country,
It honour'd him.

⁵ *Men.* The service of the foot
Being once gangren'd, is not then respected
For what before it was?

Bru. We'll hear no more:—
Pursue him to his house, and pluck him thence;
Lest his infection, being of catching nature,
Spread further.

⁴ *This is clean kam.*] i.e. Awry. So Cotgrave interprets, *Tout va à contrepoil. All goes clean kam.* Hence a *kambrel* for a crooked stick, or the bend in a horse's hinder leg.

WARBURTON.

The Welch word for *crooked* is *kam*; and in Lyly's *Endymion*, 1591, is the following passage: "But timely, madam, *crooks* that tree that will be a *camock*, and young it pricks that will be a thorn."

Again, in *Sappho and Phao*, 1591:

"*Camocks* must be bowed with sleight not strength."

Vulgar pronunciation has corrupted *clean kam* into *kim kam*, and this corruption is preserved in that great repository of ancient vulgarisms, Stanyhurst's translation of *Virgil*, 1582:

"*Scinditur incertum studia in contraria vulgus.*"

"The wavering commons in *kym kam* sectes are haled."

STEEVENS.

⁵ *Men.* The service of the foot &c.]

Nothing can be more evident, than that this could never be said by Coriolanus's apologist, and that it was said by one of the tribunes; I have therefore given it to Sicinius. WARBURTON.

I have restor'd it to *Menenius*, placing an interrogation point at the conclusion of the speech. STEEVENS.

Men. One word more, one word.

'This tyger-footed rage, when it shall find
The harm of unscann'd swiftneſs, will, too late,
Tie leaden pounds to his heels. Proceed by proceſs;
Leſt parties (as he is belov'd) break out,
And ſack great Rome with Romans.

Bru. If it were ſo—

Sic. What do ye talk?

Have we not had a taſte of his obedience?
Our ædiles ſmote? ourſelves reſiſted?—Come—

Men. Conſider this;—He hath been bred i' the wars
Since he could draw a ſword, and is ill ſchool'd
In boulted language; meal and bran together
He throws without diſtinction. Give me leave,
I'll go to him, and undertake to bring him
Where he ſhall answer, by a lawful form,
(In peace) to his utmoſt peril.

1 Sen. Noble tribunes,

It is the humane way: the other courſe
Will prove too bloody; and the end of it
Unknown to the beginning⁶.

Sic. Noble Menenius,

Be you then as the people's officer:—
Maſters, lay down your weapons.

Bru. Go not home.

Sic. Meet on the market-place:—We'll attend you
there:

Where, if you bring not Marcius, we'll proceed
In our firſt way.

Men. I'll bring him to you:—

Let me deſire your company. [*To the Senators.*] He
muſt come,

Or what is worſt will follow.

1 Sen. Pray you, let's to him.

[*Exeunt.*]

⁶ ——— the end of it

Unknown to the beginning.]

So, in the *Tempeſt*, act II. ſc. i:

“The laſter end of his commonwealth forgets its begin-
ning.” STEEVENS,

SCENE

SCENE II.

*Coriolanus's House.**Enter Coriolanus, with Patricians.*

Cor. Let them pull all about mine ears ; present
me

Death on the wheel, or at wild horses' heels ;
Or pile ten hills on the Tarpeian rock,
That the precipitation might down stretch
Below the beam of fight, yet will I still
Be thus to them.

Enter Volumnia.

Pat. You do the nobler.

Cor. ⁷ I muse, my mother

Does not approve me further, who was wont
To call them woollen vassals, things created
To buy or sell with groats ; to shew bare heads
In congregations, to yawn, be still, and wonder,
When one but of ⁸ my ordinance stood up
To speak of peace, or war. [*To Vol.*] I talk of you ;
Why did you wish me milder ? Would you have me
False to my nature ? Rather say, I play
The man I am.

Vol. O, fir, fir, fir,

I would have had you put your power well on,
Before you had worn it out.

Cor. Let go.

Vol. You might have been enough the man you are,
With striving less to be so : Lesser had been

⁷ *I muse*, —] That is, *I wonder*, *I am at a loss*. JOHNSON.

⁸ — *my ordinance* —] My rank. JOHNSON.

The thwartings of your dispositions⁹, if
 You had not shew'd them how you were dispos'd
 Ere they lack'd power to cross you.

Cor. Let them hang.

Vol. Ay, and burn too.

Enter Menenius, with the Senators.

Men. Come, come, you have been too rough,
 something too rough;
 You must return, and mend it.

Sen. There's no remedy;
 Unless, by not so doing, our good city
 Cleave in the midst, and perish.

Vol. Pray, be counsel'd:
 I have a heart as little apt as yours,
 But yet a brain, that leads my use of anger,
 To better vantage.

Men. Well said, noble woman:
 ' Before he should thus stoop to the herd, but that
 The violent fit o' the time craves it as physick
 For the whole state, I would put mine armour on,
 Which I can scarcely bear.

Cor. What must I do?

Men. Return to the tribunes.

Cor. Well, what then? what then?

Men. Repent what you have spoke.

Cor. For them?—I cannot do it to the gods;
 Must I then do't to them?

Vol. You are too absolute;

⁹ *The thwartings of your dispositions, —] The folio reads :*

The things of your dispositions, —

Mr. Rowe made the alteration, which I have followed, as my predecessors had done, though without distinguishing it to the reader. STEEVENS.

¹ *Before he should thus stoop to the heart —] This nonsense should be reformed thus :*

Before he should thus stoop to the herd,
i. e. the people. WARBURTON,

Though

Though therein you can never be too noble.
 But when extremities speak ², I have heard you say,
 Honour and policy, like unsever'd friends,
 I' the war do grow together : Grant that, and tell me,
 In peace, what each of them by the other lose,
 That they combine not there ?

Cor. Tush, tush !

Men. A good demand.

Vol. If it be honour, in your wars, to seem
 The same you are not, (which, for your best ends,
 You adopt your policy) how is it less, or worse,
 That it shall hold companionship in peace
 With honour, as in war ; since that to both
 It stands in like request ?

Cor. ³ Why force you this ?

Vol. Because,

That now it lies you on to speak to the people :
 Not by your own instruction, nor by the matter
 Which your heart prompts you to ; but with such
 words

That are but roated in your tongue, but ⁴ bastards,
 and syllables

Of no allowance, to your bosom's truth.
 Now, this no more dishonours you at all,
 Than to take in a town with gentle words,

² *But when extremities speak. I have heard, &c.]* Should not
 this passage be pointed thus ?

——— *You can never be too noble.*

But when extremities speak, I have heard, &c. MALONE.

³ *Why force you ——]* Why urge you. JOHNSON.

⁴ ——— *bastards, and syllables*

Of no allowance, to your bosom's truth.]

I read :

Of no alliance, ——

therefore *bastards*. Yet allowance may well enough stand, as mean-
 ing legal right, established rank, or settled authority. JOHNSON.

The old copy reads—*Though* but bastards, &c.

Allowance is certainly right. So, in *Othello*, act II. sc. i :

“ —— his pilot

“ *Of very expert and approv'd allowance.*” STEEVENS.

Which

Which else would put you to your fortune, and
The hazard of much blood.——

I would dissemble with my nature, where
My fortunes, and my friends, at stake, requir'd,
I should do so in honour : ⁵ I am in this,
Your wife, your son, these senators, the nobles ;
And you will rather shew ⁶ our general lowts
How you can frown, than spend a fawn upon 'em,
For the inheritance of their loves, and safeguard
Of what ⁷ that want might ruin.

Men. Noble lady !—

Come, go with us ; speak fair : you may save so,
⁸ Not what is dangerous present, but the loss
Of what is past.

Vol. I pr'ythee now, my son,
Go to them, with this bonnet in thy hand ;
And thus far having stretch'd it, (here be with them)
Thy knee buffing the stones, (for in such business
Action is eloquence, and the eyes of the ignorant
More learned than the ears) ⁹ waving thy head,
With

⁵ ———— *I am in this*

Your wife, your son : the senators, the nobles.——

And you, &c.]

The pointing of the printed copies makes stark nonsense of this passage. Volumnia is persuading Coriolanus that he ought to flatter the people, as the general fortune was at stake ; and says, that in this advice, she speaks as his wife, as his son ; as the senate, and body of the patricians ; who were in some measure link'd to his conduct. *WARBURTON.*

I rather think the meaning is, *I am in their condition, I am at stake, together with your wife, your son.* *JOHNSON.*

⁶ ———— *our general lowts,]* Our common clowns. *JOHNSON.*

⁷ ———— *that want——]* The want of their loves. *JOHNSON.*

⁸ *Not what——]* In this place *not* seems to signify *not only.*
JOHNSON.

⁹ ———— *waving thy head,*

Which often, thus, correcting thy stout heart,]

But do any of the ancient or modern masters of elocution prescribe the *waving the head*, when they treat of action ? Or how does the waving the head correct the stoutness of the heart, or evidence humility ? Or, lastly, where is the sense or grammar of these words,

Which

With often, thus, correcting thy stout heart,
 Now humble as the ripest mulberry¹,
 That will not hold the handling : Or, say to them,
 Thou art their foldier, and being bred in broils,
 Hast not the soft way, which, thou dost confess,
 Were fit for thee to use, as they to claim,
 In asking their good loves ; but thou wilt frame
 Thyself, forsooth, hereafter theirs, so far
 As thou hast power, and person.

Men. This but done,
 Even as she speaks, why, their hearts were yours :

Which often thus, &c? These questions are sufficient to shew that the lines are corrupt. I would read therefore :

——— *waving thy hand,*

Which soften thus, correcting thy stout heart.

This is a very proper precept of action suiting the occasion : Wave thy hand, says she, and soften the action of it thus, — then strike upon thy breast, and by that action shew the people thou hast corrected thy stout heart. All here is fine and proper.

WARBURTON.

The correction is ingenious, yet I think it not right. *Head or hand* is indifferent. The *hand* is *waved* to gain attention ; the *head* is shaken in token of sorrow. The word *wave* suits better to the hand, but in considering the authour's language, too much stress must not be laid on propriety, against the copies. I would read thus :

——— *waving thy head,*

With often, thus, correcting thy stout heart.

That is, *shaking thy head*, and *striking* thy breast. The alteration is slight, and the gesture recommended not improper. JOHNSON.

Shakespeare uses the same expression in *Hamlet* :

“ And thrice his head waving thus, up and down.”

STEEVENS.

I have sometimes thought that this passage might originally have stood thus :

——— *waving thy head,*

(Which *bumble* thus ;) correcting thy stout heart,

Now *soften'd* as the ripest mulberry. TYRWHITT.

* — *Bumble as the ripest mulberry,*] This fruit, when thoroughly ripe, drops from the tree. STEEVENS.

Æschylus (as appears from a fragment of his ΦΡΥΓΕΣ ἢ ΕΚ-ΤΟΡΟΣ ΑΥΤΡΑ, preserved by Athenæus, lib. ii.) says of Hector that he was softer than mulberries.

Αντ' ὃ ἰκάνθη ἢ ἀμαλίας μόνον. MUSGRAVE.

For

For they have pardons, being ask'd, as free
As words to little purpose.

Vol. Pr'ythee now,

Go, and be rul'd : although, I know, thou had'st
rather

Follow thine enemy in a fiery gulf,
Than flatter him in a bower. Here is Cominius.

Enter Cominius.

Com. I have been i' the market-place : and, fir,
'tis fit

You make strong party, or defend yourself
By calmness, or by absence ; all's in anger.

Men. Only fair speech.

Com. I think, 'twill serve, if he
Can thereto frame his spirit.

Vol. He must, and will :—

Pr'ythee, now, say, you will, and go about it.

Cor. Must I go shew them ^a my unbarb'd sconce ?
Must I,

With

^a ——— *my unbarb'd sconce ?* ———] The suppliants of the people used to present themselves to them in sordid and neglected dresses. JOHNSON.

Unbarbed, bare, uncover'd. In the times of chivalry when a horse was fully armed and accoutered for the encounter, he was said to be *barbed* ; probably from the old word *barbe* which Chaucer uses for a veil or covering. HAWKINS.

Unbarbed sconce is *untrimm'd* or *unshaven head*. To *barb* a man, was to shave him. So, in *Promos and Cassandra*, 1578 :

“ *Grim.* ——— you are so clean a young man.

“ *Row.* And who *barbes* you, Grimbail ?

“ *Grim.* A dapper knave, one Rosco.

“ *Row.* I know him not, is he a deaft *barber* ?”

To *barbe* the field was to cut the corn.

So, in Drayton's *Polyolbion*, Song XIII :

“ The lab'ring hunter tufts the thick *unbarbed* grounds.”

Again, in the *Malcontent*, by Marston :

“ The stooping scytheman that doth *barbe* the field.”

Unbarbed may, however, bear the signification which the late
Mr,

With my base tongue, give to my noble heart
 A lie, that it must bear? Well, I will do't :
 Yet were there but this ³ single plot to lose,
 This mould of Marcius, they to dust should grind it,
 And throw it against the wind.—To the market-
 place :—

You have put me now to such a part, which never
 I shall discharge to the life.

Com. Come, come, we'll prompt you.

Vol. I prythee now, sweet son ; as thou hast
 said,

My praises made thee first a soldier, so,
 To have my praise for this, perform a part
 Thou hast not done before.

Cor. Well, I must do't :—

Away, my disposition, and possess me
 Some harlot's spirit ! My throat of war be turn'd,
⁴ Which quired with my drum, into a pipe
 Small as an eunuch, or the virgin voice
 That babies lulls asleep ! The smiles of knaves
⁵ Tent in my cheeks ; and school-boys' tears take up
 The glasses of my sight ! A beggar's tongue
 Make motion through my lips ; and my arm'd knees,
 Who bow'd but in my stirrup, bend like his
 That hath receiv'd an alms !—I will not do't ;
 Lest I surcease ⁶ to honour mine own truth,

Mr. Hawkins would affix to it. So, in *Magnificence*, an inter-
 lude by Skelton, *Fancy* speaking of a hooded hawk, says :

“ *Barbyd like a nonne, for burnynge of the sonne.*”

STEEVENS.

³ ——— *single plot* ———] i. e. piece, portion ; applied to a
 piece of earth, and here elegantly transferred to the body, car-
 case. WARBURTON.

⁴ *Which quired with my drum*, ———] Which played in concert
 with my drum. JOHNSON.

⁵ *Tent in my cheeks* ; ———] To tent is to take up residence.

JOHNSON.

⁶ ——— *to honour mine own truth*,]

Πάσας δὲ μάλα ἀισχύνο σάυτεν. Pythagoras. JOHNSON.

And,

And, by my body's action, teach my mind
A most inherent baseness.

Vol. At thy choice then :

To beg of thee, it is my more dishonour,
Than thou of them. Come all to ruin ; ⁷ let
Thy mother rather feel thy pride, than fear
Thy dangerous stoutness : for I mock at death
With as big heart as thou. Do as thou list.
Thy valiantness was mine, thou suck'dst it from me ;
But own thy pride thyself.

Cor. Pray, be content ;

Mother, I am going to the market-place ;
Chide me no more. I'll mountebank their loves,
Cog their hearts from them, and come home belov'd
Of all the trades in Rome. Look, I am going :
Commend me to my wife. I'll return consul ;
Or never trust to what my tongue can do
I' the way of flattery, further.

Vol. Do your will. [*Exit Volumnia.*

Com. Away, the tribunes do attend you : arm
yourself

To answer mildly ; for they are prepar'd
With accusations, as I hear, more strong
Than are upon you yet.

Cor. The word is, mildly :—Pray you, let us go :
Let them accuse me by invention, I
Will answer in mine honour.

Men. Ay, but mildly.

Cor. Well, mildly be it then ; mildly.— [*Exeunt.*

⁷ ————let

Thy mother rather feel thy pride, than fear

Thy dangerous stoutness ; ———]

This is obscure. Perhaps, she means, *Go, do thy worst ; let me rather feel the utmost extremity that thy pride can bring upon us, than live thus in fear of thy dangerous obstinacy.* JOHNSON.

SCENE

S C E N E III.

*The Forum.**Enter Sicinius, and Brutus.*

Bru. In this point charge him home, that he affects
Tyrannical power : If he evade us there,
Inforce him with his envy to the people ;
And that the spoil, got on the Antiates,
Was ne'er distributed.—What, will he come ?

*Enter an Ædile.**Æd.* He's coming.*Bru.* How accompanied ?*Æd.* With old Menenius, and those senators
That always favour'd him.*Sic.* Have you a catalogue
Of all the voices that we have procur'd,
Set down by the poll ?*Æd.* I have ; 'tis ready.*Sic.* Have you collected them by tribes ?*Æd.* I have.*Sic.* Assemble presently the people hither :
And when they hear me say, *It shall be so,*
P the right and strength o' the commons, be it either
For death, for fine, or banishment, then let them,
If I say, fine, cry *fine* ; if death, cry *death* ;
Insisting on the old prerogative
And power^s i' the truth o' the cause.*Æd.* I shall inform them.*Bru.* And when such time they have begun to cry,

^s ——— *i' the truth o' the cause.*] This is not very easily understood. We might read :

——— *o'er the truth o' the cause.* JOHNSON.

Let them not cease, but with a din confus'd
Inforce the present execution
Of what we chance to sentence.

Æd. Very well.

Sic. Make them be strong, and ready for this hint,
When we shall hap to give't them.

Bru. Go about it. — [Exit *Ædile*.

Put him to choler straight: He hath been us'd
Ever to conquer,⁹ and to have his worth¹
Of contradiction: Being once chaf'd, he cannot
Be rein'd again to temperance²; then he speaks
What's in his heart; and that is there,³ which looks
With us to break his neck.

Enter

⁹ ——— and to have his word

Of contradiction: ———]

The sense here falls miserably. *He hath been used*, says the speaker, *ever to conquer*—And what then?—*and to contradict*. We should read and point it thus:

——— and to have his word,

Off contradiction. ———

i. e. to have his opinion carry it without contradiction. Here the sense rises elegantly. *He used ever to conquer; nay, to conquer without opposition.* WARBURTON.

To have his word of contradiction is no more than, *he is used to contradict*; and *to have his word*, that is, *not to be opposed*. We still say of an obstinate disputant, *he will have the last word*.

JOHNSON.

¹ ——— and to have his worth

Of contradiction: ———]

The modern editors substituted *word*; but the old copy reads *not word*, but *worth*, which, I apprehend, is right.—He has been used to have his *worth*, or (as we should now say) his *pennyworth* of contradiction; his full quota or proportion.

MALONE.

² *Be rein'd again to temperance*;] Our poet seems to have taken several of his images from the old pageants. In the new edition of Leland's *Collectanea*, Vol. IV. p. 190, the virtue *temperance* is represented "holdyng in hyr haund a bitt of an horse."

TOLLET.

³ ——— which looks

With us to break his neck.]

A familiar phrase of that time, signifying *works with us*. But the Oxford

Enter Coriolanus, Menenius, and Cominius, with others.

Sic. Well, here he comes.

Men. Calmly, I do beseech you.

Cor. Ay, as an ostler, that for the poorest piece
Will bear the knave by the volume ⁴.—The honour'd
gods

Keep Rome in safety, and the chairs of justice
Supply'd with worthy men! ⁵ plant love among us!
Throng our large temples with the shews of peace,
And not our streets with war!

1 Sen. Amen, amen!

Men. A noble wish.

Re-enter the Ædile, with the Plebeians.

Sic. Draw near, ye people.

Æd. Lift to your tribunes; audience: Peace, I
say.

Cor. First, hear me speak.

Both Tri. Well, say.—Peace, ho.

Cor. Shall I be charg'd no farther than this present?
Must all determine here?

Sic. I do demand,
If you submit you to the people's voices,

Oxford editor, understanding the sense better than the expression,
gives us here Shakespeare's meaning in his own words.

WARBURTON.

To look is to wait or expect. The sense I believe is, *What he
has in his heart is waiting there to help us to break his neck.*

JOHNSON.

⁴ *Will bear the knave by the volume.*] i. e. would bear being
called a knave as often as would fill out a volume. STEEVENS.

⁵ ——— plant love among us!

Through our large temples with the shews of peace,
And not our streets with war!]

We should read:

Throng our large temples——

The other is rank nonsense. WARBURTON.

Allow their officers, and are content
To suffer lawful censure for such faults
As shall be prov'd upon you ?

Cor. I am content.

Men. Lo, citizens, he says, he is content :
The warlike service he has done, consider ; think
Upon the wounds his body bears, which shew
Like graves i' the holy church-yard.

Cor. Scratches with briars, scars to move laughter
only.

Men. Consider further,
That when he speaks not like a citizen,
You find him like a soldier : Do not take
His rougher accents ⁶ for malicious sounds ;
But, as I say, such as become a soldier,
Rather than ⁷ envy you.

Com. Well, well, no more.

Cor. What is the matter,
That being past for consul with full voice,
I am so dishonour'd, that the very hour
You take it off again ?

Sic. Answer to us.

Cor. Say then : 'tis true, I ought so.

Sic. We charge you, that you have contriv'd to take
From Rome all ⁸ season'd office, and to wind
Yourself into a power tyrannical ;
For which, you are a traitor to the people.

Cor. How ! Traitor ?

Men. Nay ; temperately : Your promise.

Cor. The fires i' the lowest hell fold in the people !
Call me their traitor !—Thou injurious tribune !
Within thine eyes sat twenty thousand deaths,

⁶ *His rougher accents*] The old copy reads—*actions*. Theobald made the change. STEEVENS.

⁷ *Rather than envy you.*] *Envy* is here taken at large for malignity or ill intention. JOHNSON.

⁸ —*season'd office,*—] All office established and settled by time, and made familiar to the people by long use. JOHNSON.

In thy hands clutch'd as many millions, in
Thy lying tongue both numbers, I would say,
Thou liest, unto thee, with a voice as free
As I do pray the gods.

Sic. Mark you this, people ?

All. To the rock with him ! to the rock with him !

Sic. Peace.

We need not lay new matter to his charge :
What you have seen him do, and heard him speak,
Beating your officers, cursing yourselves,
Opposing laws with strokes, and here defying
Those whose great power must try him ; even this,
So criminal, and in such capital kind,
Deserves the extreamest death.

Bru. But since he hath
Serv'd well for Rome,——

Cor. What do you prate of service ?

Bru. I talk of that, that know it.

Cor. You ?

Men. Is this the promise that you made your mother ?

Com. Know, I pray you——

Cor. I'll know no further :

Let them pronounce the steep Tarpeian death,
Vagabond exile, sleaing : Pent to linger
But with a grain a day, I would not buy
Their mercy at the price of one fair word ;
Nor check my courage for what they can give,
To have't with saying, Good morrow.

Sic. For that he has
(As much as in him lies) from time to time
Envy'd against the people², seeking means
To pluck away their power ; ¹as now at last

Given

² *Envy'd against the people.*] i. e. behaved with signs of hatred to the people. STEEVENS.

¹ ——as now at last,] Read rather :
——has now at last. JOHNSON.

Given hostile strokes, and that ² not in the presence
Of dreaded justice, but on the ministers
That do distribute it ; In the name o' the people,
And in the power of us the tribunes, we,
Even from this instant, banish him our city ;
In peril of precipitation
From off the rock Tarpeian, never more
To enter our Rome gates : I' the people's name,
I say, it shall be so.

All. It shall be so, it shall be so ; let him away :
He's banish'd, and it shall be so.

Com. Hear me, my masters, and my common
friends ;—

Sic. He's sentenc'd : no more hearing.

Com. Let me speak :

I have been consul, and can shew from Rome,
Her enemies' marks upon me. I do love
My country's good, with a respect more tender,
More holy, and profound, than mine own life,
³ My dear wife's estimate, her womb's increase,
And treasure of my loins : then if I would
Speak that—

Sic. We know your drift : Speak what ?

Bru. There's no more to be said, but he is banish'd,
As enemy to the people, and his country :
It shall be so.

All. It shall be so, it shall be so.

Cor. You common cry of curs ! whose breath I hate
As reek o' the rotten fens, whose loves I prize

I am not certain but that *as* in this instance, has the power of
as well as. The same mode of expression I have met with among
our ancient writers. STEEVENS.

² ———— *not in the presence*] *Not* stands again for *not only*.

JOHNSON.

It is thus used in the *New Testament*, 1 Thess. iv. 8.

“ He therefore that despiseth, despiseth *not* man but God, &c.”

STEEVENS.

³ *My dear wife's estimate*, —] I love my country beyond the
rate at which I *value my dear wife*. JOHNSON.

As

As the dead carcasses of unburied men
That do corrupt my air, I banish you ;
And here remain with your uncertainty !
Let every feeble rumour shake your hearts !
Your enemies, with nodding of their plumes,
Fan you into despair ! * Have the power still
To banish your defenders : 'till, at length,
Your ignorance (which finds not, 'till it feels ;
Making but reservation of yourselves,
Still your own foes) deliver you, as most
Abated captives †, to some nation
That won you without blows ! Despising,
For you, the city, thus I turn my back :
There is a world elsewhere.

[*Exeunt Coriolanus, Cominius, and others. The people shout, and throw up their caps.*]

Æd. The people's enemy is gone, is gone !

All. Our enemy is banish'd ! he is gone ! Hoo !
hoo !

Sic. Go, see him out at gates, and follow him,

* ——— Have the power still

To banish your defenders ; till, at length,

Your ignorance, (which finds not, till it feels, &c.)

Still retain the power of banishing your defenders, till your undiscerning folly, which can foresee no consequences, leave none in the city but yourselves, who are always labouring your own destruction.

It is remarkable, that, among the political maxims of the speculative Harrington, there is one which he might have borrowed from this speech. *The people, says he, cannot see, but they can feel.* It is not much to the honour of the people, that they have the same character of stupidity from their enemy and their friend. Such was the power of our authour's mind, that he looked through life in all its relations private and civil. JOHNSON.

† Abated captives.] Abated is dejected, subdued, depressed in spirits. So, in the tragedy of *Darius* by lord Sterline, 1603 ;

“ Star-boasting Babylon, blush to behold

“ One call'd thy king, surmounted and abated,”

Abated has the same power as the French *abattu*.

Again, in *Cræsus*, 1604, by the same author :

“ To advance the humble, and abate the proud.” i. e.,

Parcere subjectis et debellare superbos. STEEVENS.

As he hath follow'd you, with all despight;
Give him deserv'd vexation. Let a guard
Attend us through the city.

All. Come, come, let us see him out at gates;
come :—

The gods preserve our noble tribunes!—Come.

[*Exeunt.*]

A C T IV. S C E N E I.

Before the Gates of Rome.

*Enter Coriolanus, Volumnia, Virgilia, Menenius, Cominius,
with the young Nobility of Rome.*

Cor. Come, leave your tears; a brief farewell :—
the beast

With many heads butts me away.—Nay, mother,
Where is your ancient courage? You were us'd
To say, extremity was the trier of spirits;
That common chances common men could bear;
That, when the sea was calm, all boats alike
Shew'd mastership in floating : ⁶ fortune's blows,
When

⁶ ———— *fortune's blows,*
When most struck home, being gentle wounded, craves
A noble cunning.]

This is the ancient and authentick reading. The modern editors have, for *gentle wounded*, silently substituted *gently awarded*, and Dr. Warburton has explained *gently* by *nobly*. It is good to be sure of our authour's words before we go about to explain their meaning.

The sense is, When Fortune strikes her hardest blows, to be wounded, and yet continue calm, requires a generous policy. He calls this calmness *cunning*, because it is the effect of reflection and philosophy. Perhaps the first emotions of nature are nearly uni-

When most struck home, being gentle wounded,
craves

A noble cunning : you were us'd to load me
With precepts, that would make invincible
The heart that conn'd them.

Vir. O heavens ! O heavens !

Cor. Nay, I pr'ythee, woman,——

Vol. Now the red pestilence strike all trades in Rome,
And occupations perish !

Cor. What, what, what !

I shall be lov'd, when I am lack'd. Nay, mother,
Resume that spirit, when you were wont to say,
If you had been the wife of Hercules,
Six of his labours you'd have done, and sav'd
Your husband so much sweat.—Cominius,
Droop not ; adieu :—Farewel, my wife ! my mother !
I'll do well yet.—Thou old and true Menenius,
Thy tears are saltier than a younger man's,
And venomous to thine eyes.—My sometime general,
I have seen thee stern, and thou hast oft beheld
Heart-hard'ning spectacles ; tell these sad women,
7 'Tis fond to wail inevitable strokes,
As 'tis to laugh at them.—My mother, you wot well,
My hazards still have been your solace : and
Believe't not lightly, (though I go alone,
Like to a lonely dragon, that his fen
Makes fear'd, and talk'd of more than seen) your son
Will, or exceed the common, or be caught
With ^s cautelous baits and practice.

Vol. ⁹ My first son,

Whi-

uniform, and one man differs from another in the power of endurance, as he is better regulated by precept and instruction.

They bore as heroes, but they felt as men. JOHNSON.

7 'Tis fond ——] i. e. 'tis foolish. STEEVENS.

^s ——cautelous baits and practice.] By artful and false tricks, and treason. JOHNSON.

⁹ My first son,] First, i. e. noblest, and most eminent of men.

WARBURTON.

Whither wilt thou go ? Take good Cominius
With thee a while : Determine on some course,
More than a wild exposure to each chance
That starts i' the way before thee.

Cor. O the gods !

Com. I'll follow thee a month, devise with thee
Where thou shalt rest, that thou may'st hear of us,
And we of thee : so, if the time thrust forth,
A cause for thy repeal, we shall not send
O'er the vast world, to seek a single man ;
And lose advantage, which doth ever cool
I' the absence of the needer.

Cor. Fare ye well :—

Thou hast years upon thee ; and thou art too full
Of the war's surfeits, to go rove with one
That's yet unbruised : bring me but out at gate.—
Come, my sweet wife, my dearest mother, and
My friends of noble touch : when I am forth,
Bid me farewell, and smile. I pray you, come.
While I remain above the ground, you shall
Hear from me still ; and never of me aught
But what is like me formerly.

Men. That's worthily

As any ear can hear.—Come, let's not weep.—
If I could shake off but one seven years
From these old arms and legs, by the good gods,
I'd with thee every foot.

Cor. Give me thy hand :—Come.

[*Exeunt.*]

The author of the *Revised* would read :

My fierce son. STEEVENS.

* *My friends of noble touch : ———]* i. e. of true metal un-
allay'd. Metaphor taken from trying gold on the touchstone.

WARBURTON.

SCENE

SCENE II.

*A Street.**Enter Sicinius, and Brutus, with an Ædile.*

Sic. Bid them all home ; he's gone, and we'll no further.—

The nobility are vex'd, who, we see, have sided
In his behalf.

Bru. Now we have shewn our power,
Let us seem humbler after it is done,
Than when it was a doing.

Sic. Bid them home :
Say, their great enemy is gone, and they
Stand in their ancient strength.

Bru. Dismiss them home. *[Exit Ædile.*

Enter Volumnia, Virgilia, and Menenius.

Here comes his mother.

Sic. Let's not meet her.

Bru. Why ?

Sic. They say, she's mad.

Bru. They have ta'en note of us :
Keep on your way.

Val. O, you're well met : The hoarded plague
o'the gods
Requite your love !

Men. Peace, peace ; be not so loud.

Vol. If that I could for weeping, you should
hear ;—

Nay, and you shall hear some.—Will you be gone ?
[To Brutus.

Vir. *[To Sicin.]* You shall stay too : I would, I had
the power
To say so to my husband.

Sic.

² *Sic.* Are you mankind ?

Vol. Ay, fool ; Is that a shame ?—Note but this fool.—

Was not a man my father ? ³ Hadst thou foxship
To banish him that struck more blows for Rome,
Than thou hast spoken words ?

Sic. O blessed heavens !

Vol. More noble blows, than ever thou wise words ;
And for Rome's good.—I'll tell thee what ;—Yet
go ;—

Nay, but thou shalt stay too :—I would my son
Were in Arabia, and thy tribe before him,
His good sword in his hand.

Sic. What then ?

Virg. What then ?

He'd make an end of thy posterity.

Vol. Bastards, and all.—

Good man, the wounds that he does bear for Rome !

Men. Come, come, peace.

Sic. I would he had continu'd to his country,

² *Sic.* Are you mankind ?

Vol. Ay, fool ; Is that a shame ?—Note but this fool.—

Was not a man my father ? ———]

The word *mankind* is used maliciously by the first speaker, and taken perversely by the second. A *mankind* woman is a woman with the roughness of a man, and, in an aggravated sense, a woman ferocious, violent, and eager to shed blood. In this sense Sicinius asks Volumnia, if she be *mankind*. She takes *mankind* for a *human creature*, and accordingly cries out :

——— Note but this fool. —

Was not a man my father ? JOHNSON.

So, Jonson, in the *Silent Woman* :

“ O mankind generation ! ”

Shakespeare himself, in the *Winter's Tale* :

“ —— a mankind witch. ”

Fairfax, in his translation of *Tasso* :

“ See, see this mankind strumpet ; see, she cry'd,

“ This shameless whore. ”

So, Ben Jonson :

“ Pallas, nor thee I call on, *mankind* maid. ” STEEVENS.

³ *Hadst thou foxship*] Hadst thou, fool as thou art, mean cunning enough to banish Coriolanus ? JOHNSON.

As he began; and not unknit himself
The noble knot he made.

Bru. I would he had.

Vol. I would he had? 'Twas you incens'd the
rabble:

Cats, that can judge as fitly of his worth,
As I can of those mysteries which heaven
Will not have earth to know.

Bru. Pray, let us go.

Vol. Now, pray, sir, get you gone:
You have done a brave deed. Ere you go, hear this:
As far as doth the Capitol exceed
The meanest house in Rome; so far, my son,
(This lady's husband here, this, do you see)
Whom you have banish'd, does exceed you all.

Bru. Well, well, we'll leave you.

Sic. Why stay we to be baited
With one that wants her wits?

Vol. Take my prayers with you.—
I would the gods had nothing else to do,

[*Exeunt Tribunes.*]

But to confirm my curses! Could I meet 'em
But once a day, it would unclog my heart
Of what lies heavy to't.

Men. You have told them home,
And, by my troth, you have cause. You'll sup
with me?

Vol. Anger's my meat; I sup upon myself,
And so shall starve with feeding.—Come, let's go:
Leave this faint puling, and lament as I do,
In anger, Juno-like. Come, come, come.

Men. Fie, fie, fie!

[*Exeunt.*]

SCENE

SCENE III.

Between Rome and Antium.

Enter a Roman, and a Volce.

Rom. I know you well, fir, and you know me: your name, I think, is Adrian.

Vol. It is so, fir: truly, I have forgot you.

Rom. I am a Roman; and my services are, as you are, against 'em: Know you me yet?

Vol. Nicanor? No.

Rom. The same, fir.

Vol. You had more beard, when I last saw you; ³ but your favour is well appear'd by your tongue. What's the news in Rome? I have a note from the Volcian state, to find you out there: You have well saved me a day's journey.

Rom. There hath been in Rome strange insurrection: the people against the senators, patricians, and nobles.

Vol. Hath been! Is it ended then? Our state thinks

³ ——— *but your favour is well appear'd by your tongue.*] This is strange nonsense. We should read:

——— *is well appeal'd,*

i. e. brought into remembrance. WARBURTON.

I should read:

——— *is well appear'd.*

That is, *strengthened, attested*, a word used by our authour.

“ *My title is appear'd.*” Macbeth.

To *repeal* may be to bring to remembrance, but *appeal* has another meaning. JOHNSON.

I would read:

Your favour is well approv'd by your tongue,

i. e. your tongue strengthens the evidence of your face.

So, in *Hamlet*, sc. i:

“ That if again this apparition come,

“ He may *approve* our eyes, and speak to it.”

STEEVENS.

not so; they are in a most warlike preparation, and hope to come upon them in the heat of their division.

Rom. The main blaze of it is past, but a small thing would make it flame again. For the nobles receive so to heart the banishment of that worthy Coriolanus, that they are in a ripe aptness, to take all power from the people, and to pluck from them their tribunes for ever. This lies glowing, I can tell you, and is almost mature for the violent breaking out.

Vol. Coriolanus banish'd?

Rom. Banish'd, sir.

Vol. You will be welcome with this intelligence, Nicanor.

Rom. The day serves well for them now. I have heard it said, The fittest time to corrupt a man's wife, is when she's fallen out with her husband. Your noble Tullus Aufidius will appear well in these wars, his great opposer Coriolanus being now in no request of his country.

Vol. He cannot choose. I am most fortunate, thus accidentally to encounter you: You have ended my business, and I will merrily accompany you home.

Rom. I shall, between this and supper, tell you most strange things from Rome; all tending to the good of their adversaries. Have you an army ready, say you?

Vol. A most royal one: the centurions, and their charges, distinctly billeted, ⁴ already in the entertainment, and to be on foot at an hour's warning.

Rom. I am joyful to hear of their readiness, and am the man, I think, that shall set them in present action. So, sir, heartily well met, and most glad of your company.

⁴ —*already in the entertainment,*] That is, though not actually encamped, yet already in pay. To entertain an army is to take them into pay. JOHNSON:

Vol. You take my part from me, fir; I have the most cause to be glad of yours.

Rom. Well, let us go together. [Exeunt.]

S C E N E IV.

Antium.

Before Aufidius's House.

Enter Coriolanus, in mean apparel, disguis'd, and muffled.

Cor. A goodly city is this Antium : City,
'Tis I that made thy widows ; many an heir^s
Of these fair edifices for my wars
Have I heard groan, and drop : then know me not ;
Lest that thy wives with spits, and boys with stones,

Enter a Citizen.

In puny battle slay me.—Save you, fir.

Cit. And you.

Cor. Direct me, if it be your will,
Where great Aufidius lies : Is he in Antium ?

Cit. He is, and feasts the nobles of the state,
At his house this night.

^s *many an heir, &c.*] *Heir* is, probably, here used in its obvious and ordinary sense, for *presumptive successor* ; the younger part of the inhabitants of Antium being most likely to have been engaged in battle. However, the words *many an heir* may signify the *actual owners, or possessors* ; for to *inherit*, and to *possess*, are used by our author as synonymous terms. So, in *Romeo and Juliet* :

“ — such delight.

“ Among fresh female buds, shall you this night

“ *Inherit* at my house.”

Again in *Titus Andronicus* :

“ To bury so much gold under a tree,

“ And never after to *inherit* it.” MALONE.

Cor.

Cor. Which is his house, 'beseech you?

Cit. This, here, before you.

Cor. Thank you, sir; farewell. [Exit Citizen.

6 O, world, thy slippery turns! Friends now fast sworn,

Whose double bosoms seem to wear one heart,
Whose hours, whose bed, whose meal, and exercise,
Are still together, who twin, as 'twere, in love
Unseparable, shall within this hour,
On a dissention of a doit, break out
To bitterest enmity: So, fellest foes,
Whose passions and whose plots have broke their
sleep

To take the one the other, by some chance,
Some trick not worth an egg, shall grow dear friends,
And interjoin their issues. 7 So with me:—

My

6 O, world, thy slippery turns! &c.] This fine picture of common friendships, is an artful introduction to the sudden league, which the poet made him enter into with Aufidius, and no less artful an apology for his commencing enemy to Rome.

WARBURTON.

7 ——— So with me:—

My country have I and my lovers left;

This enemy's town I'll enter; if he slay me, &c.

He who reads this would think that he was reading the lines of Shakespeare: except that Coriolanus, being already in the town, says, he *will enter it*. Yet the old edition exhibits it thus:

—— So with me,

My birth-place have I, and my loves upon

This enemy's town: I'll enter if he slay me, &c.

The intermediate line seems to be lost, in which, conformably to his former observations, he says, that *he has lost his birth-place, and his loves upon* a petty dispute, and is trying his chance in *this enemy town*: he then cries, turning to the house of Aufidius, *I'll enter if he slay me*.

I have preserved the common reading, because it is, though faulty, yet intelligible, and the original passage, for want of copies, cannot be restored. JOHNSON.

Perhaps the alteration of a single letter may recover sufficient sense. I read:

My

My birth-place hate I, and my love's upon
 This enemy town.—I'll enter : if he slay me,
 He does fair justice ; if he give me way,
 I'll do his country service.

[Exit.]

SCENE V.

A Hall in Aufidius's House.

Musick plays. Enter a Serving-man.

1 *Serv.* Wine, wine, wine ! What service is here !
 I think our fellows are asleep.

[Exit.]

Enter another Serving-man.

2 *Ser.* Where's Cotus ? my master calls for him.
 Cotus !

[Exit.]

Enter Coriolanus.

Cor. A goodly house : The feast smells well : but I
 Appear not like a guest.

Re-enter the first Serving-man.

1 *Serv.* What would you have, friend ? Whence
 are you ? Here's no place for you : Pray, go to the
 door.

[Exit.]

Cor. I have deserv'd no better entertainment,
 In being Coriolanus.

Re-enter Second Servant.

2 *Serv.* Whence are you, fir ? Has the porter his

*My birth-place hate I, and my love's upon
 This enemy town. I'll enter : if he slay me,
 He does, &c.*

This alteration, on account of its slightness, may be admitted in
 preference to the former one made by Mr. Rowe. STEEVENS.

eyes

eyes in his head, that he gives entrance to such companions⁸? Pray, get you out.

Cor. Away!

2 Serv. Away? Get you away.

Cor. Now thou art troublesome.

2 Serv. Are you so brave? I'll have you talk'd with anon.

Enter a third Servant. The first meets him.

3 Serv. What fellow's this?

1 Serv. A strange one as ever I look'd on: I cannot get him out o' the house: Pr'ythee, call my master to him.

3 Serv. What have you to do here, fellow? Pray you, avoid the house.

Cor. Let me but stand; I will not hurt your hearth.

3 Serv. What are you?

Cor. A gentleman.

3 Serv. A marvellous poor one.

Cor. True, so I am.

3 Serv. Pray you, poor gentleman, take up some other station: here's no place for you; pray you, avoid: come.

Cor. Follow your function, go,
And batten on cold bits. [*Pushes him away.*]

3 Serv. What, will you not? Pr'ythee, tell my master what a strange guest he has here.

2 Serv. And I shall.

[*Exit.*]

3 Serv. Where dwell'st thou?

Cor. Under the canopy.

3 Serv. Under the canopy?

Cor. Ay.

3 Serv. Where's that?

Cor. I' the city of kites and crows.

⁸*That he gives entrance to such companions?*] Companion was formerly used in the same sense as we now use the word *fellow*.

3 *Serv.* I' the city of kites and crows?—What an afs it is!—Then thou dwell'st with daws too?

Cor. No, I serve not thy master.

3 *Serv.* How, fir! Do you meddle with my master?

Cor. Ay; 'tis an honest service, than to meddle with thy mistress:

Thou prat'st, and prat'st; serve with thy trencher,
hence! [Beats him away.]

Enter Aufidius, with the second Serving-man.

Auf. Where is this fellow?

2 *Serv.* Here, fir; I'd have beaten him like a dog, but for disturbing the lords within.

Auf. Whence comest thou? what wouldest thou?

Thy name?

Why speak'st not? Speak, man: What's thy name?

Cor. If, Tullus?

Not

° *If Tullus, &c.]* These speeches are taken from the following in fir Thomas North's translation of *Plutarch*:

“ If thou knowest me not yet, Tullus, and seeing me, dost not perhappes beleeeue me to be the man I am in dede, I must of necessitie bewraye my selfe to be that I am. I am Caius Martius, who hath done to thy self particularly, and to all the Volces generally, great hurte and mischief, which I cannot denie for my surname of Coriolanus that I beare. For I neuer had other benefit nor recompence, of all the true and paynefull seruice I haue done, and the extreme daungers I haue bene in, but this only surname: a good memorie and witnes of the malice and displeasure thou shouldest bear me. In deede the name only remaineth with me: for the rest, the enuie and crueltie of the people of Rome haue taken from me, by the sufferance of the daritardly nobilitie and magistrates, who haue forsaken me, and let me be banished by the people. This extremitie hath now driven me to come as a poore suter, to take thy chimney harthe, not of any hope I haue to saue my life thereby. For if I had feared death, I would not haue come hither to haue put my life in hazard: but prickt forward with spite and desire I haue to be reuenged of them that thus haue banished me, whom now I beginne to be auenged on, putting my persone betweene thy enemies. Wherefore, if thou hast any harte to be wrecked of the injuries thy enemies haue done thee

Not yet thou know'st me, and seeing me, dost not
Think me for the man I am, necessity
Commands me name myself,

Auf. What is thy name?

Cor. A name unmusical to the Volces' ears,
And harsh in sound to thine.

Auf. Say, what's thy name?

Thou hast a grim appearance, and thy face
Bears a command in't; though thy tackle's torn,
Thou shew'st a noble vessel: What's thy name?

Cor. Prepare thy brow to frown: Know'st thou
me yet?

Auf. I know thee not:—Thy name?

Cor. My name is Caius Marcius, who hath done
To thee particularly, and to all the Volces,
Great hurt and mischief; thereto witness may
My surname, Coriolanus: The painful service,
The extream dangers, and the drops of blood
Shed for my thankless country, are requited
But with that surname; ' a good memory,
And witness of the malice and displeasure
Which thou shouldst bear me, only that name re-
mains:

The cruelty and envy of the people,
Permitted by our dastard nobles, who
Have all forsook me, hath devour'd the rest;

thee, spede thee now, and let my miserie serue thy turne, and so
vse it, as my seruice maye be a benefit to the Volces: promising
thee, that I will fight with better good will for all you, than euer
I dyd when I was against you, knowing that they fight more val-
liantly, who knowe the force of their enemie, then such as haue
neuer proued it. And if it be so that thou dare not, and that
thou art wearye to proue fortune any more: then am I also weary
to liue any longer. And it were no wisedome in thee, to saue the
life of him, who hath bene heretofore thy mortall enemie, and
whose seruice now can nothing helpe nor pleasure thee."

STEEVENS.

' ——— a good memory,] The Oxford editor, not knowing
that *memory* was used at that time for *memorial*, alters it to *memorial*.

JOHNSON,

And suffer'd me by the voice of slaves to be
 Whoop'd out Rome. Now, this extremity
 Hath brought me to thy hearth ; Not out of hope,
 Mistake me not, to save my life ; for if
 I had fear'd death, of all the men i' the world
 I would have voided thee : but in mere spite,
 To be full quit of those my banishers,
 Stand I before thee here. Then if thou hast
² A heart of wreak in thee, that wilt revenge
 Thine own particular wrongs, and stop those ³ maims
 Of shame seen through thy country, speed thee
 straight,

And make my misery serve thy turn ; so use it,
 That my revengeful services may prove
 As benefits to thee ; for I will fight
 Against my canker'd country with the spleen
 Of all the under fiends. But if so be
 Thou dar'st not this, and that to prove more fortunes
 Thou art tir'd, then, in a word, I also am
 Longer to live most weary, and present
 My throat to thee, and to thy ancient malice :
 Which not to cut, would shew thee but a fool ;
 Since I have ever follow'd thee with hate,
 Drawn tuns of blood out of thy country's breast,
 And cannot live but to thy shame, unless
 It be to do thee service.

Auf. O Marcius, Marcius,
 Each word thou hast spoke hath weeded from my
 heart.

² *A heart of wreak in thee, ———] A heart of resentment.*
 JOHNSON.

Wreak is an ancient term for revenge. So, in *Titus Andronicus*:

“ Take *wreak* on Rome for this ingratitude.”

Again, in Gower, *De Confessione Amantis*, Lib. V. fol. 83 :

“ She saith that hir selfe she sholde

“ Do *wreche* with hir owne honde.” STEEVENS.

³ ——— maims

Of shame ———]

That is, disgraceful diminutions of territory. JOHNSON.

A root of ancient envy, If Jupiter
 Should from yon cloud speak divine things, and say,
 'Tis true ; I'd not believe them more than thee,
 All noble Marcius.—Let me twine
 Mine arms about that body, where against
 My grained ash an hundred times hath broke,
 And scar'd the moon with splinters * ! Here I clip
 The anvil of my sword ; and do contest
 As hotly and as nobly with thy love,
 As ever in ambitious strength I did
 Contend against thy valour. Know thou first,
 I lov'd the maid I marry'd ; never man
 Sigh'd truer breath ; but that I see thee here,
 Thou noble thing ! more dances my rapt heart,
 Than when I first my wedded mistress saw
 Bestride my threshold. Why, thou Mars ! I tell thee,
 We have a power on foot ; and I had purpose
 Once more to hew thy target from thy brawn,
 Or lose mine arm for't : Thou hast beat me out
 Twelve several times, and I have nightly since
 Dreamt of encounters 'twixt thyself and me ;
 We have been down together in my sleep,
 Unbuckling helms, fisting each other's throat,
 And wak'd half dead with nothing. Worthy Mar-
 cius,

Had we no quarrel else to Rome, but that
 Thou art thence banish'd, we would muster all
 From twelve to seventy ; and, pouring war
 Into the bowels of ungrateful Rome,
 Like a bold flood o'er-beat. O, come, go in,
 And take our friendly senators by the hands ;
 Who now are here, taking their leaves of me,
 Who am prepar'd against your territories,
 Though not for Rome itself.

* *And scar'd the moon.*] Folio—*scarr'd*. Perhaps rightly, to distinguish it from *scared* or frightened :—yet it should not be concealed that in *King Rich. III.* we meet :

“ *Amaze the welkin with your broken staves.*” MALONE.

Cor. You bless me, Gods !

Auf. Therefore, most absolute sir, if thou wilt have

The leading of thine own revenges, take
The one half of my commission ; and set down,—
As best thou art experienc'd, since thou know'st
Thy country's strength and weakness,—thine own
ways :

Whether to knock against the gates of Rome,
Or rudely visit them in parts remote,
To fright them, ere destroy. But come in :
Let me commend thee first to those, that shall
Say, yea, to thy desires. A thousand welcomes !
And more a friend than e'er an enemy ;
Yet, Marcius, that was much. Your hand : Most
welcome ! [*Exeunt.*

1 Serv. Here's a strange alteration !

2 Serv. By my hand, I had thought to have stricken him with a cudgel ; and yet my mind gave me, his clothes made a false report of him.

1 Serv. What an arm he has ! He turn'd me about with his finger and his thumb, as one would set up a top.

2 Serv. Nay, I knew by his face that there was something in him : He had, sir, a kind of face, methought,—I cannot tell how to term it.

1 Serv. He had so ; looking, as it were,—'Would I were hang'd, but I thought there was more in him than I could think.

2 Serv. So did I, I'll be sworn : He is simply the rarest man i' the world.

1 Serv. I think, he is : but a greater soldier than he, you wot one.

2 Serv. Who ? my master ?

1 Serv. Nay, it's no matter for that.

2 Serv. Worth six of him.

1 Serv. Nay, not so neither : but I take him to be the greater soldier.

2 Serv.

2 *Serv.* 'Faith, look you, one cannot tell how to say that : for the defence of a town, our general is excellent.

1 *Serv.* Ay, and for an assault too.

Enter a third Servant.

3 *Serv.* O, slaves, I can tell you news ; news, you rascals.

Both. What, what, what ? let's partake.

3 *Serv.* I would not be a Roman, of all nations ; I had as lieve be a condemn'd man.

Both. Wherefore ? wherefore ?

3 *Serv.* Why, here's he that was wont to thwack our general, Caius Marcius.

1 *Serv.* Why do you say, thwack our general ?

3 *Serv.* I do not say, thwack our general ; but he was always good enough for him.

2 *Serv.* Come, we are fellows, and friends : he was ever too hard for him ; I have heard him say so himself.

1 *Serv.* He was too hard for him directly, to say the troth on't : before Corioli, he scotch'd him and notch'd him like a carbonado.

2 *Serv.* An he had been cannibally given, he might have broil'd and eaten him too.

1 *Serv.* But, more of thy news ?

3 *Serv.* Why, he is so made on here within, as if he were son and heir to Mars : set at upper end o' the table : no question ask'd him by any of the senators, but they stand bald before him : Our general himself makes a mistress of him ; ^s sanctifies himself with's hand, and turns up the white o' the eye to his discourse. But the bottom of the news is, our general is cut i' the middle, and but one half of what he was

^s *sanctifies himself with's hand,*] Alluding, improperly, to the act of *crossing* upon any strange event. JOHNSON.

yesterday : for the other has half, by the intreaty and grant of the whole table. ⁶ He will go, he says, and fowle the porter of Rome gates by the ears : He will mow down all before him, and leave ⁷ his passage poll'd.

2 *Serv.* And he's as like to do't, as any man I can imagine.

3 *Serv.* Do't? he will do't: For, look you, fir, he has as many friends as enemies ; which friends, fir, (as it were) durst not (look you, fir) shew themselves (as we term it) his friends, whilst he's in directitude.

1 *Serv.* Directitude ! What's that ?

3 *Serv.* But when they shall see, fir, his crest up again, and the man in blood, they will out of their

⁶ *He will — fowle the porter of Rome gates by th' ears.] That is, I suppose, drag him down by the ears into the dirt. Soullier, Fr. JOHNSON.*

Dr. Johnson's supposition, though not his derivation, is just. Skinner says the word is derived from *sow*, i. e. *to take hold of a person by the ears, as a dog seizes one of these animals.* So, Heywood, in a comedy called *Love's Mistress*, 1636 :

“ Venus will *fowle me by the ears* for this.”

Perhaps Shakespeare's allusion is to *Hercules* dragging out *Cerberus*.
STEEVENS.

Whatever the etymology of *fowle* may be, it appears to have been a familiar word in the last century. Lord Strafford's correspondent, Mr. Garrard, uses it as Shakespeare does. *Straff. Lett.* Vol. II. p. 149. “ A lieutenant *soled him well by the ears*, and drew him by the hair about the room.” Lord Strafford himself uses it in another sense, Vol. II. p. 158. “ It is ever a hopeful throw, where the caster *soles* his bowl well.” In this passage *to sole* seems to signify what, I believe, is usually called *to ground a bowl*. TYRWHITT.

⁷ — *his passage poll'd.] That is, bared, cleared.* JOHNSON.

To poll a person anciently meant to cut off his hair. So, in *Dametas' Madrigall in praise of his Daphnis*, by J. Wootton, published in *England's Helicon*, 1614 :

“ Like Nisus golden hair that Scilla *pol'd*.”

It likewise signify'd to cut off the head. So, in the ancient metrical history of the battle of *Flodden Field* :

“ But now we will withstand his grace,

“ Or thousand heads shall there be *polled*.” STEEVENS.

burrows, like conies after rain, and revel all with him.

1 Serv. But when goes this forward ?

3 Serv. To-morrow ; to-day ; presently. You shall have the drum struck up this afternoon : 'tis, as it were, a parcel of their feast, and to be executed ere they wipe their lips.

2 Serv. Why, then we shall have a stirring world again. This peace is nothing ⁸, but to rust iron, encrease tailors, and breed ballad-makers.

1 Serv. Let me have war, say I ; it exceeds peace, as far as day does night ; it's sprightly, waking, audible, and ⁹ full of vent. Peace is a very apoplexy, lethargy ; mull'd ¹ ; deaf, sleepy, insensible ; a getter of more bastard children, than war's a destroyer of men.

2 Serv. 'Tis so : and as war, in some sort, may be said to be a ravisher ; so it cannot be denied, but peace is a great maker of cuckolds.

1 Serv. Ay, and it makes men hate one another.

3 Serv. Reason ; ² because they then less need one another. The wars, for my money. I hope to see Romans as cheap as Volces.—They are rising, they are rising.

All. In, in, in, in.

[*Exeunt.*]

⁸ *This peace is nothing but to rust, &c.]* I believe a word or two have been lost :

This peace is good for nothing but, &c. MALONE.

⁹ *full of vent.]* Full of rumour, full of materials for discourse. JOHNSON.

¹ — *mull'd, —*] i. e. soften'd and dispirited, as wine is when burnt and sweeten'd. Lat. *Mollitus*. HANMER.

² — *because they then less need one another :*] Shakespeare, when he chooses to give us some weighty observation upon human nature, not much to the credit of it, generally (as the intelligent reader may observe) puts it into the mouth of some low buffoon character.

WARBURTON.

SCENE

SCENE VI.

A publick Place in Rome.

Enter Sicinius, and Brutus.

Sic. We hear not of him, neither need we fear him ;
 ' His remedies are tame i' the present peace
 And quietness o' the people, which before
 Were in wild hurry. Here do we make his friends
 Blush, that the world goes well ; who rather had,
 Though they themselves did suffer by't, behold
 Dissentious numbers pestering streets, than see
 Our tradesmen singing in their shops, and going
 About their functions friendly.

Enter Menenius.

Bru. We stood to't in good time. Is this Menenius?

Sic. 'Tis he, 'tis he : O, he is grown most kind
 Of late.—Hail, sir !

Men. Hail to you both !

Sic. Your Coriolanus is not much mis'd,

³ *His remedies are tame i' the present peace,*] The old reading is,
His remedies are tame, the present peace.
 I do not understand either line, but fancy it should be read thus :
 ——— *neither need we fear him ;*
His remedies are ta'en, the present peace,
And quietness o' the people, ———

The meaning, somewhat harshly expressed, according to our author's custom, is this : *We need not fear him, the proper remedies against him are taken, by restoring peace and quietness.* JOHNSON.

I rather suppose the meaning of Sicinius to be this :

His remedies are tame,

i. e. *ineffectual* in times of peace like these. When the people were in commotion, his friends might have strove to remedy his disgrace by tampering with them ; but now, neither wanting to employ his bravery, nor remembering his former actions, they are unfit subjects for the factious to work upon. STEEVENS.

But

But with his friends : the common-wealth doth stand ;
And so would do, were he more angry at it.

Men. All's well ; and might have been much better, if

He could have temporiz'd.

Sic. Where is he, hear you ?

Men. Nay, I hear nothing ; his mother and his wife

Hear nothing from him.

Enter three or four Citizens.

All. The gods preserve you both !

Sic. Good-e'en, our neighbours.

Bru. Good-e'en to you all, good-e'en to you all.

1 Cit. Ourselves, our wives, and children, on our knees,

Are bound to pray for you both.

Sic. Live, and thrive !

Bru. Farewel, kind neighbours : We wish'd Coriolanus

Had lov'd you as we did.

All. Now the gods keep you !

Both Tri. Farewel, farewell. [*Exeunt Citizens.*]

Sic. This is a happier and more comely time,
Than when these fellows ran about the streets,
Crying, Confusion.

Bru. Caius Marcius was
A worthy officer i' the war ; but insolent,
O'ercome with pride, ambitious past all thinking,
Self-loving,——

Sic. And * affecting one sole throne,
Without assistance.

Men. I think not so.

* —— affecting one sole throne,

Without assistance.

That is, without assessors ; without any other suffrage. JOHNSON.

Sic.

Sic. We had by this, to all our lamentation,
If he had gone forth consul, found it so.

Bru. The gods have well prevented it, and Rome
Sits safe and still without him.

Enter Ædile.

Ædile. Worthy tribunes,
There is a slave, whom we have put in prison,
Reports,—the Volces with two several powers
Are enter'd in the Roman territories;
And with the deepest malice of the war
Destroy what lies before 'em.

Men. 'Tis Aufidius,
Who, hearing of our Marcius' banishment,
Thrusts forth his horns again into the world;
Which were in-shell'd, when Marcius stood for Rome,
And durst not once peep out.

Sic. Come, what talk you of Marcius?

Bru. Go see this rumourer whipp'd.—It cannot be,
The Volces dare break with us.

Men. Cannot be!
We have record, that very well it can;
And three examples of the like have been
Within my age. But 'reason with the fellow,
Before you punish him, where he heard this;
Lest you shall chance to whip your information,
And beat the messenger who bids beware
Of what is to be dreaded.

Sic. Tell not me:
I know, this cannot be.

Bru. Not possible.

^s ————reason *with the fellow*] That is, have some *talk* with him. In this sense Shakespeare often uses the word. JOHNSON.

Enter

Enter a Messenger.

Mess. The nobles, in great earnestness, are going
All to the senate-house : some news is come,
That turns their countenances.

Sic. 'Tis this slave ;—
Go whip him 'fore the people's eyes :—his raising !
Nothing but his report !

Mess. Yes, worthy sir,
The slave's report is seconded ; and more,
More fearful, is deliver'd.

Sic. What more fearful ?

Mess. It is spoke freely out of many mouths,
(How probable, I do not know) that Marcius,
Join'd with Aufidius, leads a power 'gainst Rome ;
And vows revenge as spacious, as between
The young'st and oldest thing.

Sic. This is most likely !

Bru. Rais'd only, that the weaker sort may wish
Good Marcius home again.

Sic. The very trick on't.

Men. This is unlikely :
He and Aufidius ⁶ can no more atone,
Than violentest contrariety.

Enter another Messenger.

Mess. You are sent for to the senate :
A fearful army, led by Caius Marcius,

⁶ ——— can no more atone,] This is a very elegant expression, and taken from unison strings giving the same tone or sound.

WARBURTON.

Dr. Warburton's etymology is not just. *Atone* seems to be derived from *at* and *one*—to reconcile to, or, to be at, union.

MALONE.

To *atone*, in the active sense, is to *reconcile*, and is so used by our authour. To *atone* here, is, in the neutral sense, to *come to reconciliation*. To *atone* is to *unite*. JOHNSON.

Assol-

Affociated with Aufidius, rages
 Upon our territories ; and have already
 O'er-borne their way, consum'd with fire, and took
 What lay before them.

Enter Cominius.

Com. O, you have made good work !

Men. What news ? what news ?

Com. You have help to ravish your own daughters,
 and

To melt the city leads upon your pates ;
 To see your wives dishonour'd to your noses ;—

Men. What's the news ? what's the news ?

Com. Your temples ⁷ burned in their cement ; and
 Your franchises, whereon you stood, confin'd
 Into an augre's bore.

Men. Pray now, the news ?——

You have made fair work, I fear me :—Pray, your
 news ?

If Marcius should be joined with the Volces,——

Com. If !

He is their god ; he leads them like a thing
 Made by some other deity than nature,
 That shapes man better : and they follow him,
 Against us brats, with no less confidence,
 Than boys pursuing summer butter-flies,
 Or butchers killing flies.

Men. You have made good work,
 You, and your apron-men ; you that stood so much
 Upon the voice of occupation ⁸, and

⁷ —— burned in their cement, ——] *Cement*, for cincture or inclosure ; because *both* have the idea of holding together.

WARBURTON.

Cement has here its common signification. JOHNSON.

⁸ Upon the voice of occupation.] *Occupation* is here used for *mechanicks*, men occupied in daily business. So, Horace uses *artes* for *artifices*.

“ Urit enim fulgore suo qui prægravat artes

“ *Infra se positas.*” MALONE.

9 The breath of garlick-eaters !

Com. He'll shake your Rome about your ears.

Men. As Hercules did shake down mellow fruit¹.

You have made fair work !

Bru. But is this true, sir ?

Com. Ay ; and you'll look pale

Before you find it other. All the regions

Do smilingly revolt² ; and, who resist,

Are mock'd for valiant ignorance,

And perish constant fools. Who is't can blame him ?

Your enemies, and his, find something in him.

Men. We are all undone, unless

The noble man have mercy.

Com. Who shall ask it ?

The tribunes cannot do't for shame ; the people

Deserve such pity of him, as the wolf

Does of the shepherds : for his best friends, if they

¹ *The breath of garlick-eaters !*] To smell of garlick was once such a brand of vulgarity, that garlick² was a food forbidden to an ancient order of Spanish knights, mentioned by Guevara.

JOHNSON.

To smell of *leeks* was no less a mark of vulgarity among the Roman people in the time of Juvenal. Sat. iii :

“ ——— *quis tecum seſtile porrum*

“ *Sutor, et elixi vervecis labra comedit ?*”

And from the following passage in Decker's *If this be not a good Play the Devil is in it*, 1612, it should appear that garlick was once much used in England, and afterwards as much out of fashion.

“ Fortune favours nobody but *garlick*, nor *garlick* neither now ; yet she has strong reason to love it : for though *garlick* made her smell abominably in the nostrils of the gallants, yet she had smelt and stunk worse but for *garlick*.”

Hence, perhaps, the cant denomination *Pil-garlick* for a deserted fellow, a person left to suffer without friends to assist him.

STEEVENS.

¹ *As Hercules, &c.*] An allusion to the apples of the Hesperides.

STEEVENS.

² *Do smilingly revolt ; ———*] *Smilingly* is the word in the old copy, for which *seemingly* has been printed in late editions.

To revolt smilingly is to revolt with signs of pleasure, or with marks of contempt. STEEVENS.

Should

Should say, *Be good to Rome*,³ they charg'd him even
As those should do that had deserv'd his hate,
And therein shew'd like enemies.

Men. 'Tis true :

If he were putting to my house the brand
That should consume it, I have not the face
To say, *Beseech you, cease*.—You have made fair hands,
You, and your crafts! you have crafted fair!

Com. You have brought
A trembling upon Rome, such as was never
So incapable of help.

Tri. Say not, we brought it.

Men. How! Was it we? We lov'd him; but,
like beasts,
And cowardly nobles, gave way to your clusters,
Who did hoot him out o' the city.

Com. But, I fear,
* They'll roar him in again. Tullus Aufidius,
The second name of men, obeys his points
As if he were his officer :—Desperation
Is all the policy, strength, and defence,
That Rome can make against them.

Enter a troop of Citizens.

Men. Here come the clusters.—
And is Aufidius with him?—You are they

³ — *they charge him, &c.*] Their *charge* or injunction would
shew them insensible of his wrongs, and make them *shew like ene-*
mies. I read *shew*, not *sheaved*, *like enemies*. JOHNSON.

Dr. Johnson proposes to read :

And therein shew :

The old copy has *charg'd* and *shew'd*. If one is changed, so
ought the other. I read :

They'd charge him —

—and therein shew. MALONE.

The old reading, which I have restor'd, is undoubtedly the true
one. STEEVENS.

* *They'll roar him in again.*—] As they *booted* at his de-
parture, they will *roar* at his return; as he went out with scoffs,
he will come back with lamentations. JOHNSON.

That

That made the air unwholesome, when you cast
Your stinking, greasy caps, in hooting at
Coriolanus' exile. Now he's coming ;
And not a hair upon a soldier's head,
Which will not prove a whip ; as many coxcombs,
As you threw caps up, will he tumble down,
And pay you for your voices. 'Tis no matter ;
If he could burn us all into one coal,
We have deserv'd it.

Omnes. 'Faith, we hear fearful news.

1 Cit. For mine own part,
When I said, banish him, I said, 'twas pity.

2 Cit. And so did I.

3 Cit. And so did I ; and, to say the truth, so did
very many of us : That we did, we did for the best ;
and though we willingly consented to his banishment,
yet it was against our will.

Com. You are goodly things, you voices !

Men. You have made you
Good work, you and your cry ^s !—Shall us to the Ca-
pitol ?

Com. O, ay ; what else ? [*Exit Com. and Men.*]

Sic. Go, masters, get you home, be not dismay'd ;
These are a fide, that would be glad to have
This true, which they so seem to fear. Go home,
And shew no sign of fear.

1 Cit. The gods be good to us ! Come, masters,
let's home. I ever said, we were i' the wrong, when
we banish'd him.

2 Cit. So did we all. But come, let's home.

[*Exeunt Citizens.*]

Bru. I do not like this news.

Sic. Nor I.

Bru. Let's to the Capitol :—'Would, half my
wealth

^s *You and your cry !*] Alluding to a pack of hounds. So, in
Hamlet, a company of players are contemptuously called a cry of
players. STEEVENS.

Would buy this for a lie !

Sic. Pray, let us go.

[*Exeunt Tribunes.*]

S C E N E VII.

A Camp ; at a small distance from Rome.

Enter Aufidius, with his Lieutenant.

Auf. Do they still fly to the Roman ?

Lieu. I do not know what witchcraft's in him ; but
Your soldiers use him as the grace 'fore meat,
Their talk at table, and their thanks at end ;
And you are darken'd in this action, sir,
Even by your own.

Auf. I cannot help it now ;
Unless, by using means, I lame the foot
Of our design. He bears himself more proudly
Even to my person, than I thought he would,
When first I did embrace him : Yet his nature
In that's no changeling ; and I must excuse
What cannot be amended.

Lieu. Yet I wish, sir,
(I mean, for your particular) you had not
Join'd in commission with him : but either borne
The action of yourself, or else to him
Had left it solely.

Auf. I understand thee well ; and be thou sure,
When he shall come to his account, he knows not
What I can urge against him. Although it seems,
And so he thinks, and is no less apparent
To the vulgar eye, that he bears all things fairly,
And shews good husbandry for the Volcian state ;
Fights dragon-like, and does atchieve as soon
As draw his sword : yet he hath left undone
That, which shall break his neck, or hazard mine,
Whene'er we come to our account.

Lieu.

Lieu. Sir, I beseech you, think you he'll carry Rome?

Auf. All places yield to him ere he sits down; And the nobility of Rome are his: The senators, and patricians, love him too: The tribunes are no soldiers; and their people Will be as rash in the repeal; as hasty To expel him thence. I think, he'll be to Rome
 * As is the osprey to the fish, who takes it By sovereignty of nature. First he was A noble servant to them; but he could not Carry his honours even: ? whether 'twas pride,

* *As is the osprey*——] *Osprey*, a kind of eagle, *ossifraga*.

POPE.

We find in Michael Drayton's *Polyolbion*, Song xxv. a full account of the *osprey*, which shews the justness and beauty of the simile:

“ The *osprey*, oft here seen, though seldom here it breeds,
 “ Which over them the *fish* no sooner do espy,
 “ But, betwixt him and them by an antipathy,
 “ Turning their bellies up, as though their death they saw,
 “ They at his pleasure lie, to stuff his gluttonous maw.”

LANGTON.

So, in the *Battle of Alcazar*, 1594:

“ I will provide thee with a princely *osprey*,
 “ That as she flyeth over fish in pools,
 “ The fish shall turn their glit'ring bellies up,
 “ And thou shalt take thy liberal choice of all.”

Such is the fabulous history of the *osprey*. I learn, however, from Mr. Lambe's notes to the ancient metrical legend of the *Battle of Floddon*, that the *osprey* is a “ rare, large, blackish hawk, with a long neck, and blue legs. Its prey is fish, and it is sometimes seen hovering over the Tweed.” STEEVENS.

? ——— whether 'twas pride,

Which out of daily fortune ever taints

The happy man; whether ———]

Aufidius assigns three probable reasons of the miscarriage of Coriolanus; pride, which easily follows an uninterrupted train of success; unskilfulness to regulate the consequences of his own victories; a stubborn uniformity of nature, which could not make the proper transition from the *casque* or *helmet* to the *cushion* or *chair of civil authority*; but acted with the same despotism in peace as in war. JOHNSON.

Which out of daily fortune ever taints
 The happy man ; whether defect of judgment,
 To fail in the disposing of those chances
 Which he was lord of ; or whether nature,
 Not to be other than one thing, not moving
 From the casque to the cushion, but commanding
 peace

Even with the same austerity and garb
 As he controll'd the war : but, one of these,
 (As he hath spices of them all, not all,
 For I dare so far free him) made him fear'd,
 So hated, and so banish'd : But ⁸ he has a merit,
 To choak it in the utterance. So our virtues
 Lie in the interpretation of the time :
⁹ And power, unto itself most commendable,
 Hath not a tomb so evident as a chair
 To extol what it hath done.

One fire drives out one fire ; one nail, one nail ;
 ' Right's by right fouler, strengths by strength do fail.
 Come,

⁸ ————— *he has a merit*

To choak it in the utterance —————]

He has a merit, for no other purpose than to destroy it by boasting it. JOHNSON.

⁹ *And power, unto itself most commendable,*

Hath not a tomb so evident as a chair

To extol what it hath done.]

This is a common thought, but miserably ill expressed. The sense is, The virtue which delights to commend itself, will find the surest *tomb* in that *chair* wherein it holds forth its own commendations :

————— *unto itself most commendable.*

i. e. which hath a very high opinion of itself. WARBURTON.

¹ *Right's by right fouler,* —] This has no manner of sense. We should read :

Right's by right fouled, —————

Or, as it is commonly written in English, *foiled*, from the French, *fouler*, to tread or trample under foot. WARBURTON.

I believe *rights*, like *strengths*, is a plural noun. I read :

Rights by rights founder, strengths by strengths do fail.

That is, by the exertion of one right another right is lamed.

JOHNSON.

Right's

Come, let's away. When, Caius, Rome is thine,
Thou art poor'st of all ; then shortly art thou mine.
[*Exeunt.*]

A C T V. S C E N E I.

A public Place in Rome.

Enter Menenius, Cominius, Sicinius, and Brutus, with others.

Men. No, I'll not go : you hear, what he hath said,

Which was sometime his general ; who lov'd him
In a most dear particular. He call'd me, father :
But what o'that ? Go, you that banish'd him,
A mile before his tent fall down, and knee
The way into his mercy : Nay, if he coy'd
To hear Cominius speak, I'll keep at home.

Com. He would not seem to know me.

Men. Do you hear ?

Com. Yet one time he did call me by my name :
I urg'd our old acquaintance, and the drops
That we have bled together. Coriolanus

Right's by right fouler, ———]

i. e. What is already right, and is received as such, becomes less clear when supported by supernumerary proofs. Such appears to me to be the meaning of this passage, which may be applied with too much justice to many of my own comments on Shakespeare.

Fouled, however, is certainly an English word, and is used in Sidney's *Arcadia*, edit. 1633, p. 441 :

“ Thy all-beholding eye *foul'd* with the sight.”

There is likewise the following proverb—*York doth foul Sutton*—
i. e. exceeds it on comparison, and makes it appear mean and poor.

STEEVENS.

He would not answer to : forbad all names ;
 He was a kind of nothing, titleless,
 'Till he had forg'd himself a name i' the fire
 Of burning Rome.

Men. Why, so ; you have made good work :
 A pair of tribunes, ² that have rack'd for Rome,
 To make coals cheap : A noble memory ³ !

Com. I minded him, how royal 'twas to pardon
 When least it was expected : He reply'd,
 ' It was a bare petition of a state,
 To one whom they had punish'd.

Men. Very well :
 Could he say less ?

Com. I offer'd to awaken his regard
 For his private friends : His answer to me was,
 He could not stay to pick them in a pile
 Of noisome, musty chaff : He said, 'twas folly,

² ——— [*that have rack'd for Rome,*] We should read, *reck'd*,
 i. e. been careful, provident for. In this insinuation of their
 only minding trifles, he satirizes them for their injustice to Co-
 riolanus ; which was like to end in the ruin of their country. The
 Oxford editor, seeing nothing of this, reads :

————— *have sack'd fair Rome.* WARBURTON.

Rack'd for Rome is surely the right reading. To *rack* means
 to *harrass by exactions*, and in this sense the poet uses it in other
 places :

“ The commons hast thou *rack'd* ; the clergy's bags

“ Are lank and lean with thy extortions.”

I believe it here means in general, You that have been such good
 stewards for the Roman people, as to get their houses burned
 over their heads, to save them the expence of coals. STEEVENS.

³ ——— memory for memorial. So, in *As You Like It* :

“ ——— O, you memory

“ Of old sir Rowland ! ——— ” STEEVENS.

⁴ *It was a bare petition* ———] *Bare*, for mean, beggarly.

WARBURTON.

I believe rather, a petition unsupported, unaided by names that
 might give it influence. JOHNSON.

A *bare petition*, I believe, means only a *mere petition*. Corio-
 lanus weighs the consequence of verbal supplication against that
 of actual punishment. STEEVENS.

For one poor grain or two, to leave unburnt,
And still to nose the offence.

Men. For one poor grain or two ?

I am one of those ; his mother, wife, his child,
And this brave fellow too, we are the grains :
You are the musty chaff ; and you are smelt
Above the moon : We must be burnt for you.

Sic. Nay, pray, be patient : If you refuse your aid
In this so never-needed help, yet do not
Upbraid us with our distress. But, sure, if you
Would be your country's pleader, your good tongue,
More than the instant army we can make,
Might stop our countryman.

Men. No ; I'll not meddle.

Sic. Pray you, go to him.

Men. What should I do ?

Bru. Only make trial what your love can do
For Rome, towards Marcius.

Men. Well, and say that Marcius
Return me, as Cominius is return'd,
Unheard ; what then ?—

But as a discontented friend, grief-shot
With his unkindness ? Say't be so ?

Sic. Yet your good will
Must have that thanks from Rome, after the measure
As you intended well.

Men. I'll undertake it :
I think, he'll hear me. Yet to bite his lip,
And hum at good Cominius, much unhearts me.
⁵ He was not taken well ; he had not din'd :
The veins unfill'd, our blood is cold, and then
We pout upon the morning, are unapt
To give or to forgive ; but when we have stuff'd

⁵ *He was not taken well ; he had not din'd, &c.]* This observation is not only from nature, and finely expressed, but admirably befits the mouth of one, who in the beginning of the play had told us, that he loved convivial doings. *WARBURTON.*

These pipes, and these conveyances of our blood
With wine and feeding, we have suppler souls
Than in our priest-like fasts : therefore I'll watch
him

'Till he be dieted to my request,
And then I'll set upon him.

Bru. You know the very road into his kindness,
And cannot lose your way.

Men. Good faith, I'll prove him,
Speed how it will. I shall ere long have knowledge
Of my success. *[Exit,*

Com. He'll never hear him.

Sic. Not ?

Com. ⁶ I tell you, he does sit in gold, his eye
Red as 'twould burn Rome : and his injury
The goaler to his pity. I kneel'd before him :
'Twas very faintly he said, *Rise* ; dismiss'd me
Thus, with his speechless hand : What he would do,
He sent in writing after me ; what he would not,
Bound with an oath, to yield to his conditions :

So,

⁶ *I tell you, he does sit in gold ; —*] He is enthroned in all the
pomp and pride of imperial splendour.

Χρυσόθρονος "H^{en} — Hom. JOHNSON.

So, in the old translation of *Plutarch* : " — he was set in his
chaire of state, with a marvelous and unspeakable majestie." *Shakespeare* has a somewhat similar idea in *K. Henry VIII.* act I.
sc. i :

" All clinquant, all in gold, like beaten gods." STEEVENS.

⁷ *Bound with an oath to yield to his conditions :*] This is appar-
ently wrong. Sir T. Hanmer, and Dr. Warburton after him,
read :

Bound with an oath not to yield to new conditions.

They might have read more smoothly :

————— to yield no new conditions.

But the whole speech is in confusion, and I suspect something
left out. I should read :

————— What he would do,

He sent in writing after ; what he would not,

Bound with an oath. To yield to his conditions.

Here is, I think, a chasm. The speaker's purpose seems to be
this ;

* So that all hope is vain ;
 Unless his noble mother, and his wife,
 Who, as I hear, mean to solicit him
 For mercy to his country—Therefore, let's hence,
 And with our fair entreaties haste them on. [*Exeunt*,

S C E N E II.

The Volcian Camp.

Enter Menenius to the Watch, or Guard.

1 *Watch*. Stay : Whence are you ?

2 *Watch*. Stand, and go back.

Men. You guard like men ; 'tis well : But, by
 your leave,

this : *To yield to his conditions is ruin, and better cannot be obtained, so that all hope is vain.* JOHNSON.

I suppose, Coriolanus means, that he had sworn to give way to the conditions, into which the ingratitude of his country had forced him. FARMER.

* *So that all hope is vain ;
 Unless his noble mother, and his wife,
 Who, as I hear, mean to solicit him
 For mercy to his country——]*

Unless his mother and wife——do what ? The sentence is imperfect ;
 We should read :

Force mercy to his country.——
 and then all is right. WARBURTON.

Dr. Warburton's emendation is surely harsh, and may be rendered unnecessary by printing the passage thus :

*——mean to solicit him
 For mercy to his country——Therefore, &c.*

This liberty is the more justifiable, because, as soon as the remaining hope crosses the imagination of Menenius, he might suppress what he was going to add, through haste to try the success of a last expedient.

It has been proposed to me to read :

*So that all hope is vain,
 Unless in his noble mother and his wife, &c.*

In his, abbreviated *in's*, might have been easily mistaken by such inaccurate printers. STEEVENS,

I am

I am an officer of state, and come
To speak with Coriolanus.

1 *Watch.* From whence?

Men. From Rome.

1 *Watch.* You may not pass, you must return :
our general
Will no more hear from thence.

2 *Watch.* You'll see your Rome embrac'd with fire,
before
You'll speak with Coriolanus.

Men. Good my friends,
If you have heard your general talk of Rome,
And of his friends there, it is ⁹ lots to blanks,
My name hath touch'd your ears : it is, Menenius.

1 *Watch.* Be it so ; go back : the virtue of your
name
Is not here passable.

Men. I tell thee, fellow,
Thy general is my lover : I have been
The book of his good acts, whence men have read
His fame unparallel'd, hapily, amplified ;
² For I have ever verifi'd my friends,

(Of

⁹ ——— lots to blanks,] A lot here is a prize. JOHNSON.
² For I have ever verified my friends
——— with all the size that verity, &c.]

Shakespeare's mighty talent in painting the manners is especially remarkable in this place. Menenius here, and Polonius in *Hamlet*, have much of the same natural character. The difference is only accidental. The one was a senator in a free state ; and the other a courtier and minister to a king ; which two circumstances afforded matter for that inimitable ridicule thrown over the character of Polonius. For the rest, there is an equal complaisance for those they follow ; the same disposition to be a creature ; the same love of prate ; the same affectation of wisdom, and forwardness to be in business. But we must never believe Shakespeare could make either of them say, *I have verified my friends with all the size of verity* ; nay, what is more extraordinary, *verified them beyond verity*. Without doubt he wrote :

For I have ever narrified my friends :

i. e. made their encomium. This too agrees with the foregoing
meta-

(Of whom he's chief) with all the size that verity
Would without lapsing suffer : nay, sometimes,
Like to a bowl upon a subtle ground²,
I have tumbled past the throw ; and in his praise
Have, almost, stamp'd the leasing : Therefore, fellow,
I must have leave to pass.

¹ *Watch.* 'Faith, 'fir, if you had told as many lies
in his behalf, as you have utter'd words in your own,
you should not pass here : no, though it were as vir-
tuous to lie, as to live chastly. Therefore, go back,

Men, Pr'ythee, fellow, remember my name is

metaphors of *book, read*, and constitutes an uniformity amongst
them. From whence the Oxford editor took occasion to read
magnified: which makes the absurdity much worse than he found
it: for, to *magnify* signifies to *exceed* the truth ; so that this cri-
tic makes him say, he *magnified* his friend *within* the size of *ve-*
riety : i. e. he exceeded truth, even while he kept within it.

WARBURTON.

If the commentator had given any example of the word *narrify*,
the correction would have been not only received, but applauded.
Now, since the new word stands without authority, we must try
what sense the old one will afford. To *verify* is to *establish by*
testimony. One may say with propriety, *he brought false witnesses*
to verify his title. Shakespeare considered the word with his usual
laxity, as importing rather *testimony* than *truth*, and only meant
to say, *I bore witness to my friends with all the size that verity*
would suffer.

I must remark, that to *magnify* signifies to *exalt* or *enlarge*, but
not necessarily to *enlarge* beyond the truth. JOHNSON.

Mr. Edwards would read *varnished* ; but Dr. Johnson's expla-
nation of the old word renders all change unnecessary.

To *verify* may, however, signify to *display*. Thus in an an-
cient metrical pedigree in possession of the late dutchess of North-
umberland, and quoted by Dr. Percy in the *Reliques of ancient*
English Poetry, Vol. I. p. 279. 3d edit :

" In hys scheld did schyne a mone *verysfying* her light."

STEEVENS.

² ——— upon a subtle ground,] *Subtle* means *smooth, level*. So,
Jonson, in one of his masques :

" Tityus's breast is counted the *subtlest* bowling ground in
all Tartarus."

Subtle, however, may mean *artificially unlevel*, as many bowl-
ing-greens are. STEEVENS.

Mene-

Menenius, always factionary on the party of your general.

2 *Watch.* Howsoever you have been his liar, (as you say, you have) I am one that, telling true under him, must say, you cannot pass. Therefore, go back.

Men. Has he din'd, can'st thou tell? for I would not speak with him 'till after dinner.

1 *Watch.* You are a Roman, are you?

Men. I am as thy general is.

1 *Watch.* Then you should hate Rome, as he does. Can you, when you have push'd out of your gates the very defender of them, and, in a violent popular ignorance, given your enemy your shield, think to front his revenges with the easy groans of old women, ³ the virginal palms of your daughters, or with the

³ *the virginal palms of your daughters,]* By *virginal palms* may be indeed understood the holding up the hands in supplication. Therefore I have altered nothing. But as this sense is cold, and gives us even a ridiculous idea; and as the *passions* of the several intercessors seem intended to be here represented, I suspect Shakespeare might write *pasmes* or *pames*, i. e. swooning fits, from the French *pasmer* or *pâmer*. I have frequently used the liberty to give sense to an unmeaning passage by the introduction of a French word of the same sound, which I suppose to be of Shakespeare's own coining. And I am certainly to be justified in so doing, by the great number of such sort of words to be found in the common text. But for a further justification of this liberty, take the following instance; where all must agree, that the common reading is corrupt by the editors inserting an English word they understood, instead of one coined by Shakespeare out of the French, which they understood not. It is in his *Tarquin and Lucrece*, where he is speaking of the office and empire of Time, and the effects it produces in the world:

Time's glory is ———

To fill with worm-holes stately monuments,

To feed oblivion with decay of things;

To blot old books and alter their contents;

To pluck the quills from ancient ravens wings;

To dry the old oak's sap, and cherish springs.

The two last words, if they make any sense, it is such as is directly contrary to the sentiments here advanced; which is concerning the *decays*, not the *repairs* of time. The poet certainly wrote:

the palsy'd intercession of such a decay'd dotant ⁴ as you seem to be? Can you think to blow out the intended

To dry the old oak's sap, and tarish springs.

i. e. to dry up springs, from the French *tarir* or *tarissement*, *exarefacere*, *exsiccatio*: these words being peculiarly applied to springs or rivers. **WARBURTON.**

I have inserted this note, because it contains an apology for many others. It is not denied that many French words were mingled in the time of Elizabeth with our language, which have since been ejected, and that any which are known to have been then in use may be properly recalled when they will help the sense. But when a word is to be admitted, the first question should be, by whom was it ever received? In what book can it be shewn? If it cannot be proved to have been in use, the reasons which can justify its reception must be stronger than any critick will often have to bring. Even in this certain emendation, the new word is very liable to contest. I should read:

————— and perish springs.

The word *perish* is commonly neutral, but in conversation is often used actively, and why not in the works of a writer negligent beyond all others of grammatical niceties? **JOHNSON.**

After all, I believe the former reading of the passage in *Targuin and Lucrece* to be the true one. Shakespeare's meaning is, that *Time* was variously employed, both in destroying old things, and in raising up young ones. The next stanza sufficiently proves it:

“ To shew the beldame daughters of her daughter,

“ To make the child a man, the man a child;

“ To chear the ploughman with encreaseful crops,

“ And waste huge stones with little water-drops.

“ To dry the old oak's sap, and *cherish springs*;

i. e. to dry up the old oak's sap, and consequently to destroy it; and likewise to *cherish springs*, i. e. to raise up or nourish the shoots of coppice-wood, or of young trees, groves, and plantations. The word *springs* is used in this sense by Chaucer, Spenser, Fairfax, Drayton, Donne, and Milton, as well as by the old writers on husbandry, Fitzherbert, Tusser, Markham, and by Shakespeare himself in the *Comedy of Errors*:

“ ——— shall, Antipholus,

“ Even in the spring of love, thy love-springs rot?”

Again, in Holinshed's *Description of England*, both the contested words in the latter part of the verse, occur. “ We have manie woods, forrests, and parks which *cherish* trees abundantlie, beside infinit numbers of hedge rowes, groves, and *springs*, that are maintained &c.” Thus far Mr. Tollet.

Dr. Warburton is surely unfortunate in the assortment of French words

tended fire your city is ready to flame in, with such weak breath as this? No, you are deceiv'd; therefore, back to Rome, and prepare for your execution: you are condemn'd, our general has sworn you out of reprieve and pardon.

Men. Sirrah, if thy captain knew I were here, he would use me with estimation.

2 *Watch.* Come, my captain knows you not.

Men. I mean, thy general.

1 *Watch.* My general cares not for you. ' Back, I say, go, lest I let forth your half pint of blood;—back,—that's the utmost of your having:—back.

Men. Nay, but fellow, fellow,—

words exhibited on the present occasion, since the *first* never was admitted as a *noun* into the French language, nor can the latter possibly be claimed by any language at all. The attempt to introduce *pasmes* instead of *palms* ridicules itself.

The adjective *virginal* is used in *Woman is a Weathercock*, 1612:

“Lav'd in a bath of contrite *virginal* tears.”

Again, in Spenser's *Faerie Queen*, B. II. c. ix:

“She to them made with mildness *virginal*.” STEEVENS.

Whether the word *perish* be right or not in this place, Dr. Johnson truly observes, that it is sometimes used actively. In the *Maid's Tragedy*:

“——— Let not my sins,” says Evadne to Amintor,

“*Perish* your noble youth.” FARMER.

Again, in the Second Eclogue of *Drayton*:

“And hath for ever *perished* my sale.”

Again, in the *Honest Man's Fortune*, by B. and Fletcher:

“——— his wants

“And miseries have *perish'd* his good face.” STEEVENS.

“a decay'd dotant] Thus the old copy. Modern editors read —dotard. STEEVENS.

5 *Back, I say, go; lest I let forth your half pint of blood. Back, that's the utmost of your having, back.*] As these words are read and pointed, the sentence [*that's the utmost of your having*] signifies, you are like to get no further. Whereas the author evidently intended it to refer to the *half pint of blood* he speaks of, and to mean, that that was all he had in his veins. The thought is humorous; and to disembarass it from the corrupt expression, we should read and point it thus, *Lest I let forth your half pint of blood: that's the utmost of your having. Back, back.* WARBURTON.

I believe the meaning never was mistaken, and therefore do not change the reading. JOHNSON.

Enter

Enter Coriolanus, with Aufidius.

Cor. What's the matter ?

Men. Now, you companion, I'll say an errand for you ; you shall know now, that I am in estimation ; you shall perceive that a Jack guardant cannot office me from my son Coriolanus : ⁶ guess, by my entertainment with him, if thou stand'st not i' the state of hanging, or of some death more long in spectatorship, and crueller in suffering ; behold now presently, and swoon for what's to come upon thee.—The glorious gods sit in hourly synod about thy particular prosperity, and love thee no worse than thy old father Menenius does ! O, my son, my son ! thou art preparing fire for us ; look thee, here's water to quench it. I was hardly moved to come to thee : but being assured, none but myself could move thee, I have been blown out of your gates with sighs ; and conjure thee to pardon Rome, and thy petitionary countrymen. The good gods assuage thy wrath, and turn the dregs of it upon this varlet here ; this, who, like a block, hath denied my access to thee.

Cor. Away !

Men. How ! away ?

Cor. Wife, mother, child, I know not. My affairs Are servanted to others : ⁷ Though I owe My revenge properly, my remission lyes In Volcian breasts. That we have been familiar, Ingrate forgetfulness shall poison, rather

⁶ —guess but my entertainment with him ;] I read, *Guess by my entertainment with him, if thou standest not i' the state of hanging.*

JOHNSON.

Mr. Edwards had proposed the same emendation in his MS. notes already mentioned. STEEVENS.

⁷ ———— *Though I owe*

My revenge properly, ————]

Though I have a peculiar right in revenge, in the power of forgiveness the Volcians are conjoined. JOHNSON.

Than pity note how much.—Therefore, be gone:
 Mine ears against your suits are stronger, than
 Your gates against my force. Yet, for I lov'd thee;
 Take this along; I writ it for thy sake,

[Gives him a letter.

And would have sent it. Another word, Menenius,
 I will not hear thee speak.—This man, Aufidius,
 Was my belov'd in Rome: yet thou behold'st—

Auf. You keep a constant temper. [Exeunt.

Manent the Guard, and Menenius.

1 Watch. Now, fir, is your name Menenius.

2 Watch. 'Tis a spell, you see, of much power:
 You know the way home again.

1 Watch. Do you hear how we are ^shent for keep-
 ing your greatness back?

2 Watch. What cause, do you think, I have to
 swoon?

Men. I neither care for the world, nor your gene-
 ral: for such things as you, I can scarce think there's
 any, you are so slight. He that hath a will to die by
 himself, fears it not from another. Let your general
 do his worst. For you, be that you are, long; and
 your misery increase with your age! I say to you, as
 I was said to, Away! [Exit.

1 Watch. A noble fellow, I warrant him.

2 Watch. The worthy fellow is our general: He is
 the rock, the oak not to be wind-shaken. [Exeunt.

³ —how we are shent] *Shent* is brought to destruction. JOHNSON.

Shent does not mean brought to destruction, but shamed, disgraced,
 made ashamed of himself. See the old ballad of the Heir of Linne,
 in the second volume of *Reliques of Ancient English Poetry*:

“Sorely *shent* with this rebuke

“Sorely *shent* was the heir of Linne;

“His heart, I wis, was near-to braft

“With guilt and sorrow, shame and finne.” PERCY.

S C E N E III.

*A Tent.**Enter Coriolanus and Aufidius.*

Cor. We will before the walls of Rome to morrow
Set down our host.—My partner in this action,
You must report to the Volscian lords, ⁹ how plainly
I have borne this business.

Auf. Only their ends
You have respected; stopp'd your ears against
The general suit of Rome; never admitted
A private whisper, no, not with such friends
That thought them sure of you.

Cor. This last old man,
Whom with a crack'd heart I have sent to Rome,
Lov'd me above the measure of a father;
Nay, godded me, indeed. Their latest refuge
Was to send him: for whose old love, I have
(Though I shew'd sourly to him) once more offer'd
The first conditions, which they did refuse,
And cannot now accept, to grace him only,
That thought he could do more; a very little
I have yielded too: Fresh embassies, and suits,
Nor from the state, nor private friends, hereafter
Will I lend ear to.—Ha! what shout is this?

[Shout within.]

Shall I be tempted to infringe my vow
In the same time 'tis made? I will not.—

*Enter Virgilia, Volumnia, Valeria, young Marcius, with
Attendants, all in mourning.*

My wife comes foremost; then the honour'd mold

⁹ ————— *how plainly*

I have borne this business.]

That is, *how openly, how remotely* from artifice or concealment.

JOHNSON.

Wherein this trunk was fram'd, and in her hand
The grandchild to her blood. But, out, affection!
All bond and privilege of nature, break!

Let it be virtuous, to be obstinate.—

What is that curt'sy worth? or those dove's eyes,
Which can make gods forsworn?—I melt, and am
not

Of stronger earth than others.—My mother bows;
As if Olympus to a mole-hill should
In supplication nod: and my young boy
Hath an aspect of intercession, which
Great nature cries, *Deny not*.—Let the Volces
Plough Rome, and harrow Italy; I'll never
Be such a gosling to obey instinct; but stand,
As if a man were author of himself,
And knew no other kin.

Virg. My lord and husband!

Cor. These eyes are not the same I wore in Rome.

Virg. The sorrow, that delivers us thus chang'd,
Makes you think so?

Cor. Like a dull actor now,
I have forgot my part, and I am out,
Even to a full disgrace.—Best of my flesh,
Forgive my tyranny; but do not say,
For that, *Forgive our Romans*.—O, a kiss
Long as my exile, sweet as my revenge!
Now by the jealous queen of heaven, that kiss
I carried from thee, dear; and my true lip

⁹ *The sorrow, that delivers us thus chang'd,
Makes you think so.*]

Virgilia makes a voluntary misinterpretation of her husband's words. He says, *These eyes are not the same*, meaning, that he saw things with *other eyes*, or *other dispositions*. She lays hold on the word *eyes*, to turn his attention on their present appearance.

JOHNSON.

¹ *Now by the jealous queen of heaven, —*] That is, *by Juno*, the guardian of marriage, and consequently the avenger of conjugal perfidy. JOHNSON.

Hath

Hath virgin'd it e'er since.—You gods ! I prate² ;
 And the most noble mother of the world
 Leave unsaluted : Sink, my knee, i' the earth ;

[*Kneels.*

Of thy deep duty more impression shew
 Than that of common sons.

Vol. O, stand up blest !

Whilst, with no softer cushion than the flint,
 I kneel before thee ; and improperly
 Shew duty, as mistaken all the while
 Between the child and parent.

[*Kneels.*

Cor. What is this ?

Your knees to me ? to your corrected son ?
 Then let the pebbles on the hungry beach
 Fillop the stars : then let the mutinous winds
 Strike the proud cedars 'gainst the fiery sun ;
 Murd'ring impossibility, to make
 What cannot be, slight work.

Vol. Thou art my warrior ;

I help to frame thee. Do you know this lady ?

[*Pointing to Valeria.*

Cor. ³ The noble sister of Publicola,
 The moon of Rome ; chaste as the isicle⁴

That's

² — *I prate.*] The old copy—*I pray.* The merit of the alteration is Theobald's. STEEVENS.

³ *The noble sister of Publicola,*] Valeria, methinks, should not have been brought only to fill up the procession without speaking. JOHNSON.

It is not improbable, but that the poet designed the following words of Volumnia for Valeria. Names are not unfrequently confounded by the player-editors ; and the lines that compose this speech might be given to the sister of Publicola without impropriety. It may be added, that though the scheme to solicit Coriolanus was originally proposed by Valeria, yet Plutarch has allotted her no address when she comes with his wife and mother on this occasion. STEEVENS.

⁴ *chaste as the isicle, &c.*] I cannot forbear to quote the following beautiful passage from Shirley's *Gentleman of Venice*, in which the praise of a lady's chastity is likewise attempted :

That's curdled by the frost from purest snow,
And hangs on Dian's temple : Dear Valeria !

Vol. This is a poor ^s epitome of yours,

[*Shewing young Marcius.*

Which by the interpretation of full time
May shew like all yourself.

Cor. The god of soldiers,

⁶ With the consent of supreme Jove, inform
Thy thoughts with nobleness ; that thou may'st
prove

To shame invulnerable, and stick i'the wars
Like a great sea-mark, standing ⁷ every flaw,
And saving those that eye thee !

Vol. Your knee, firrah.

Cor. That's my brave boy.

Vol. Even he, your wife, this lady, and myself,
Are suitors to you.

Cor. I beseech you, peace :

Or, if you'd ask, remember this before ;
The things, I have forsworn to grant, may never
Be held by you denials. Do not bid me
Dismiss my soldiers, or capitulate
Again with Rome's mechanics :—Tell me not
Wherein I seem unnatural : Desire not

“ ———— thou art chaste

“ As the white down of heaven, whose feathers play

“ Upon the wings of a cold winter's gale,

“ Trembling with fear to touch th' impurer earth.”

STEEVENS.

⁵ ———— epitome of yours,] I read :

——— epitome of you.

An epitome of you, which, enlarged by the commentaries of time,
may equal you in magnitude. JOHNSON.

⁶ With the consent of supreme Jove, ————] This is inserted
with great decorum. Jupiter was the tutelary God of Rome.

WARBURTON.

⁷ ———— every flaw,] That is, every gust, every storm.

JOHNSON.

To allay my rages and revenges, with
Your colder reasons.

Vol. Oh, no more, no more !

You have said, you will not grant us any thing ;
For we have nothing else to ask, but that
Which you deny already : Yet we will ask ;
That, if we fail in our request, the blame
May hang upon your hardness : therefore hear us.

Cor. Aufidius, and you Volces, mark ; for we'll
Hear nought from Rome in private.—Your request ?

Vol. Should we be silent and not speak, our raiment³

And

³ *Should we be silent and not speak, our raiment, &c.*] “ The speeches copied from Plutarch in *Coriolanus* may (says Mr. Pope) be as well made an instance of the learning of Shakespeare, as those copied from Cicero, in *Cataline*, of Ben Jonson's.” Let us inquire into this matter, and transcribe a *speech* for a specimen. Take the famous one of Volumnia ; for our author has done little more, than thrown the very words of North into blank verse.

“ If we helde our peace (my sonne) and determined not to speake, the state of our poore bodies, and present sight of our rayment, would easely bewray to thee what life we have led at home, since thy exile and abode abroad. But thinke now with thy selfe, howe much more unfortunately, then all the women liuinge we are come hether, considering that the sight which should be most pleasaunt to all other to beholde, spirefull fortune hath made most fearfull to us : making my selfe to see my sonne, and my daughter here, her husband, besieging the walles of his natieue countrie. So as that which is the only comfort to all other in their aduersitie and miserie, to pray unto the goddess, and to call to them for aide, is the onely thinge which plongeth us into most deep perplexitie. For we cannot (alas) together pray, both for victorie, for our countrie, and for safety of thy life also : but a worlde of grievous curses, yea more then any mortall enemy can heape upon us, are forcibly wrapt up in our prayers. For the bitter soppe of most harde choyce is offered thy wife and children, to foregoe the one of the two : either to lose the persone of thy selfe, or the nurse of their natieue contrie. For my selfe (my sonne) I am determined not to tarrie, till fortune in my life time doe make an ende of this warre. For if I cannot perswade thee, rather to doe good unto both parties, then to ouerthrowe and destroye the one, pre-

And state of bodies would bewray what life
 We have led since thy exile. Think with thyself,
 How more unfortunate than all living women
 Are we come hither : since that thy sight, which
 should

Make our eyes flow with joy, hearts dance with com-
 forts,

⁹ Constrains them weep, and shake with fear and sor-
 row ;

Making the mother, wife, and child, to see
 The son, the husband, and the father, tearing
 His country's bowels out. And to poor we,
 Thine enmity's most capital : thou barr'st us
 Our prayers to the gods, which is a comfort
 That all but we enjoy : For how can we,
 Alas ! how can we for our country pray,
 Whereto we are bound ; together with thy victory,
 Whereto we are bound ? Alack ! or we must lose
 The country, our dear nurse ; or else thy person,
 Our comfort in the country. We must find
 An evident calamity, though we had
 Our wish, which side should win : for either thou
 Must, as a foreign recreant, be led
 With manacles thorough our streets ; or else
 Triumphantly tread on thy country's ruin ;
 And bear the palm, for having bravely shed
 Thy wife and children's blood. For myself, son,
 I purpose not to wait on fortune, 'till
 These wars determine : if I cannot persuade thee
 Rather to shew a noble grace to both parts,
 Than seek the end of one, thou shalt no sooner

ferring love and nature before the malice and calamitie of warres ;
 thou shalt see, my sonne, and trust unto it, thou shalt no soner
 marche forward to assault thy countrie, but thy foote shall tread
 upon thy mother's wombe, that brought thee first into this world."

FARMER.

⁹ *Constrains them weep, and shake*——] That is, *constrains*
the eye to weep, and the heart to shake. JOHNSON.

March

March to assault thy country, than to tread
(Trust to't, thou shalt not) on thy mother's womb,
That brought thee to this world.

Virg. Ay, and mine,
That brought you forth this boy, to keep your name
Living to time.

Boy. He shall not tread on me ;
I'll run away 'till I am bigger, but then I'll fight.

Cor. Not of a woman's tenderness to be,
Requires nor child nor woman's face to see.
I have fat too long.

Vol. Nay, go not from us thus.
If it were so, that our request did tend
To save the Romans, thereby to destroy
The Volces whom you serve, you might condemn
us,

As poisonous of your honour : No ; our suit
Is, that you reconcile them : while the Volces
May say, *This mercy we have shew'd* ; the Romans,
This we receiv'd ; and each in either side
Give the all-hail to thee, and cry, *Be blest*
For making up this peace ! Thou know'st, great son,
The end of war's uncertain ; but this certain,
That, if thou conquer Rome, the benefit
Which thou shalt thereby reap, is such a name,
Whose repetition will be dogg'd with curses ;
Whose chronicle thus writ,—*The man was noble,*
But with his last attempt he wip'd it out ;
Destroy'd his country, and his name remains
To the ensuing age, abhorr'd. Speak to me, son :
Thou hast affected ' the fine strains of honour,
To imitate the graces of the gods ;
To tear with thunder the wide checks o'the air,
And yet to charge thy sulphur with a bolt

That

* —the fine strains—] The niceties, the refinements.

JOHNSON.

2 And yet to change thy sulphur—] We should read *charge*.

That should but rive an oak. Why dost not speak ?
 Think'st thou it honourable for a noble man
 Still to remember wrongs ?—Daughter, speak you :
 He cares not for your weeping.—Speak thou, boy ;
 Perhaps, thy childishness will move him more
 Than can our reasons.—There is no man in the
 world

More bound to his mother ; yet here he lets me prate,
³ Like one i' the stocks. Thou hast never in thy life
 Shew'd thy dear mother any courtesy ;
 When she, (poor hen !) fond of no second brood,
 Has cluck'd thee to the wars, and safely home,
 Loaden with honour. Say, my request's unjust,
 And spurn me back : But, if it be not so,
 'Thou art not honest ; and the gods will plague thee,
 'That thou restrain'st from me the duty, which
 To a mother's part belongs.—He turns away :
 Down, ladies ; let us shame him with our knees,
 To his surname Coriolanus 'longs more pride,
 Than pity to our prayers. Down : An end ;
 This is the last :—So we will home to Rome,
 And die among our neighbours.—Nay, behold us :
 This boy, that cannot tell what he would have,
 But kneels, and holds up hands, for fellowship,
⁴ Does reason our petition with more strength
 Than thou hast to deny't.—Come, let us go :
 This fellow had a Volce unto his mother ;
 His wife is in Corioli, and this child
 Like him by chance :—Yet give us our dispatch ;
 I am hush'd until our city be afire,
 And then I'll speak a little.

The meaning of the passage is, To threaten much, and yet be
 merciful. WARBURTON.

³ *Like one i' the stocks.*—] Keep me in a state of ignominy
 talking to no purpose. JOHNSON.

⁴ *Does reason our petition*—] Does argue for us and our
 petition, JOHNSON.

Cor. Mother, mother^s!—

[Holds her by the hands, silent.

What have you done? Behold, the heavens do ope,
The gods look down, and this unnatural scene
They laugh at. O my mother, mother! O!
You have won a happy victory to Rome:
But, for your son,—believe it, O, believe it,
Most dangerously you have with him prevail'd,
If not most mortal to him. But, let it come:—
Aufidius, though I cannot make true wars,
I'll frame convenient peace. Now, good Aufidius,
Were you in my stead, say, would you have heard
A mother less? or granted less, Aufidius?

Auf. I was mov'd withal.

Cor. I dare be sworn, you were:

And, sir, it is no little thing, to make
Mine eyes to sweat compassion. But, good sir,
What peace you'll make, advise me: For my part,
I'll not to Rome, I'll back with you: and pray you,
Stand to me in this cause.—O mother! wife!

Auf. I am glad, thou hast set thy mercy and thy
honour

At difference in thee: out of that⁶ I'll work
Myself a former fortune.

[Aside.

[The Ladies make signs to Coriolanus.]

Cor. Ay, by and by;

But we will drink together; and you shall bear

[To Volumnia, Virgilia, &c.

A better witness back than words, which we,

^s *Mother, mother!—*] So, in the old translation of *Plutarch*:
“Oh mother, what have you done to me? And holding her
harde by the right hande, oh mother, sayed he, you have wonne
a happy victorie for your countrie, but mortall and unhappy for
your sonne: for I see myself vanquished by you alone.”

STEEVENS.

⁶ ——— *I'll work*

Myself a former fortune.]

I will take advantage of this concession to restore myself to my
former credit and power. JOHNSON.

On like conditions, will have counter-seal'd.

⁷ Come, enter with us. Ladies, you deserve
To have a temple built you ⁸: all the swords
In Italy, and her confederate arms,
Could not have made this peace.

[*Exeunt.*]

S C E N E IV.

The Forum, in Rome.

Enter Menenius, and Sicinius.

Men. See you yon coign o' the Capitol; yon corner-stone?

Sic. Why, what of that?

Men. If it be possible for you to displace it with your little finger, there is some hope the ladies of Rome, especially his mother, may prevail with him.

⁷ Cor. — *Come enter with us: Ladies, you deserve, &c.*] This speech, beginning at *Ladies you deserve*—which is absurdly given to Coriolanus, belongs to Aufidius. For it cannot be supposed that the other, amidst all the disorder of violent and contrary passions, could be calm and disengaged enough to make so gallant a compliment to the ladies. Let us farther observe from this speech, where he says:

——— *all the swords*

In Italy, and her confederate arms.

And from that a little before:

——— *Let the Volces*

Plough Rome, and harrow Italy; ———

That the poet's head was running on the later grandeur of Rome, when as at this time her dominion extended only a few miles round the city. **WARBURTON.**

The speech suits Aufidius justly enough; if it had been written for him; but it may, without impropriety, be spoken by Coriolanus: and since the copies give it to him, why should we dispossess him? **JOHNSON.**

⁸ *To have a temple built you.*] Plutarch informs us, that a temple dedicated to the *Fortune of the Ladies*, was built on this occasion by order of the senate. **STEEVENS.**

But,

But, I say, there is no hope in't ; our throats are sentenc'd, and stay upon execution.

Sic. Is't possible, that so short a time can alter the condition of a man ?

Men. There is difference between a grub, and a butterfly ; yet your butterfly was a grub. This Marcius is grown from man to dragon : he has wings ; he's more than a creeping thing.

Sic. He lov'd his mother dearly.

Men. So did he me : and he no more remembers his mother now, than ' an eight year old horse. The tartness of his face sours ripe grapes. When he walks, he moves like an engine, and the ground shrinks before his treading. He is able to pierce a corset with his eye ; talks like a knell, and his hum is a battery. ' He fits in his state, as a thing made for Alexander. What he bids be done, is finish'd with his bidding. He wants nothing of a god, but eternity, and a heaven to throne in.

Sic. Yes, mercy, if you report him truly.

Men. I paint him in the character. Mark what mercy his mother shall bring from him : There is no more mercy in him, than there is milk in a male tyger ; and that shall our poor city find : and all this is 'long of you.

Sic. The gods be good unto us

Men. No, in such a case the gods will not be good unto us. When we banish'd him, we respected not them : and, he returning to break our necks, they respect not us.

' —than an eight year old horse.] Subintelligitur *remembers his dam.*

WARBURTON.

' *He fits in his state*] In a foregoing note he was said to *fit in gold*. The phrase, *as a thing made for Alexander*, means, *as one made to resemble Alexander*. JOHNSON.

Enter

Enter a Messenger.

Mef. Sir, if you'd save your life, fly to your house:
The plebeians have got your fellow-tribune,
And hale him up and down; all swearing, if
The Roman ladies bring not comfort home,
They'll give him death by inches.

Enter another Messenger.

Sic. What's the news?

Mef. Good news, good news;—The ladies have
prevail'd,
The Volces are dislodg'd, and Marcius gone;
A merrier day did never yet greet Rome,
No, not the expulsion of the Tarquins.

Sic. Friend,
Art thou certain, this is true? is it most certain?

Mef. As certain, as I know the sun is fire:
Where have you lurk'd, that you make doubt of it?
Ne'er through an arch so hurry'd the blown tide,
As the recomforted through the gates. Why, hark
you;

[*Trumpets, hautboys, drums beat, all together.*
The trumpets, sackbuts, psalteries, and fifes,
Tabors, and cymbals, and the shouting Romans,
Make the sun dance. Hark you! [*A shout within.*

Men. This is good news:
I will go meet the ladies. This Volumnia
Is worth of consuls, senators, patricians,
A city full; of tribunes, such as you,
A sea and land full: You have pray'd well to-day;
This morning, for ten thousand of your throats
I'd not have given a doit. Hark, how they joy!

[*Sound still, with the shouts.*

Sic. First, the gods bless you for your tidings: next,
Accept my thankfulness.

Mef.

Mef. Sir, we have all great cause to give great thanks.

Sic. They are near the city ?

Mef. Almost at point to enter.

Sic. We'll meet them, and help the joy. [*Exeunt.*]

Enter two Senators, with the Ladies, passing over the stage, &c. &c.

Sen. Behold our patroness, the life of Rome :
Call all your tribes together, praise the gods,
And make triumphant fires; strew flowers before
them :

Unshout the noise that banish'd Marcius,
Repeal him with the welcome of his mother :

Cry,—Welcome, ladies, welcome !——

All. Welcome, ladies, welcome !

[*A flourish with drums and trumpets. Exeunt.*]

S C E N E V.

A publick place in Antium.

Enter Tullus Aufidius, with Attendants.

Auf. Go tell the lords of the city, I am here :
Deliver them this paper : having read it,
Bid them repair to the market-place ; where I,
Even in theirs and in the commons' ears,
Will vouch the truth of it. He I accuse,
The city ports by this hath enter'd, and
Intends to appear before the people, hoping
To purge himself with words : Dispatch.—Most
welcome !

Enter three or four Conspirators of Aufidius' faction.

1 Con. How is it with our general ?

Auf. Even so,

As with a man by his own alms im-poison'd,
And with his charity slain.

2 *Con.* Most noble sir,
If you do hold the same intent wherein
You wish'd us parties, we'll deliver you
Of your great danger.

Auf. Sir, I cannot tell ;
We must proceed, as we do find the people.

3 *Con.* The people will remain uncertain, whilst
'Twixt you there's difference ; but the fall of either
Makes the survivor heir of all.

Auf. I know it ;
And my pretext to strike at him admits
A good construction. I rais'd him, and I pawn'd
Mine honour for his truth : Who being so heighten'd,
He water'd his new plants with dews of flattery,
Seducing so my friends : and, to this end,
He bow'd his nature, never known before
But to be rough, unswayable, and free.

3 *Con.* Sir, his stoutness,
When he did stand for consul, which he lost
By lack of stooping,—

Auf. That I would have spoke of :
Being banish'd for't, he came unto my hearth ;
Presented to my knife his throat : I took him ;
Made him joint servant with me ; gave him way
In all his own desires ; nay, let him choose.
Out of my files, his projects to accomplish,
My best and freshest men ; serv'd his designments
In mine own person ; help to reap the same,
Which he did end all his ; and took some pride
To do myself this wrong : 'till, at the last,
I seem'd his follower, not partner ; and
2 He wag'd me with his countenance, as if
I had been mercenary.

1 *Con.*

2 *He wag'd me with his countenance,—*] This is obscure. The meaning, I think, is, he *prescribed* to me with an air of authority,

1 Con. So he did, my lord :
The army marvell'd at it. And, in the last,
When he had carried Rome ; and that we look'd
For no less spoil, than glory,——

Auf. There was it ;——

3 For which my sinews shall be stretch'd upon him.
At a few drops of women's rheum, which are
As cheap as lies, he sold the blood and labour
Of our great action ; Therefore shall he die,
And I'll renew me in his fall. But, hark !

[Drums and trumpets sound, with great shouts
of the people.]

1 Con. Your native town you enter'd like a post,
And had no welcomes home ; but he returns,
Splitting the air with noise.

2 Con. And patient fools,

ity, and gave me *his countenance for my wages* ; thought me sufficiently rewarded with good looks. JOHNSON.

The verb, to *wage*, is used in this sense in the *Wife Woman of Hogsdon*, by Heywood, 1638 :

“ ——I receive thee gladly to my house,

“ And *wage* thy stay.——”

Again, in Greene's *Mamillia*, 1593 : “ ——by custom common to all that could *wage* her honesty with the appointed price.”

To *wage a task* was, anciently, to undertake a task for *wages*. So, in Geo. Wither's *Verses* prefixed to Drayton's *Polyolbion* :

“ Good speed befall thee who hast *wag'd a task*,

“ That better censures, and rewards doth ask.”

Again, in Spenser's *Faery Queen*, B. II. c. vii :

“ ——must *wage*

“ Thy works for wealth, and life for gold engage.”

Again, in lord Surry's translation of the Second Book of *Virgil's Æneis* :

“ ——what Dolopes ?

“ What stern Ulysses' *waged* soldier ?”

Again, in Holinshed's *Reign of K. John*, p. 168 : “ ——the summe of 28 thousand markes to levie and *wage* thirtie thousand men.” Again, speaking of *K. Hen. IV.* p. 524 : “ ——the king wanted money for that enterprize, and to *wage* his soldiers.”

STEEVENS.

3 For which my sinews shall be stretch'd—] This is the point on which I will attack him with my utmost abilities. JOHNSON.

Whose

Whose children he hath slain, their base throats tear,
With giving him glory.

3 *Con.* Therefore, at your vantage,
Ere he expresse himself, or move the people
With what he would say, let him feel your sword,
Which we will second. When he lies along,
After your way his tale pronounc'd shall bury
His reasons with his body.

Auf. Say no more ;
Here come the lords.

Enter the Lords of the city.

Lords. You are most welcome home.

Auf. I have not deserv'd it.

But, worthy lords, have you with heed perus'd
What I have written to you ?

Lords. We have.

1 *Lord.* And grieve to hear it.

What faults he made before the last, I think,
Might have found easy fines : but there to end,
Where he was to begin : and give away
The benefit of our levies, ⁴ answering us
With our own charge ; making a treaty, where
There was a yielding ; This admits no excuse.

Auf. He approaches, you shall hear him.

*Enter Coriolanus, with drums and colours ; the Commons
being with him.*

Cor. Hail, lords ! I am return'd your soldier ;
No more infected with my country's love,
Than when I parted hence, but still subsisting
Under your great command. You are to know,

⁴ ——— answering us

With our own charge ; ———]

That is, rewarding us with our own expences ; making the cost of
the war its recompence. JOHNSON.

That prosperously I have attempted, and
 With bloody passage led your wars, even to
 The gates of Rome. Our spoil, we have brought
 home,

Doth more than counterpoise, a full third part,
 The charges of the action. We have made peace,
 With no less honour to the Antiates,
 Than shame to the Romans : And we here deliver,
 Subscrib'd by the consuls and patricians,
 Together with the seal o' the senate, what
 We have compounded on.

Auf. Read it not, noble lords ;
 But tell the traitor, in the highest degree
 He hath abus'd your powers.

Cor. Traitor !—How now ?—

Auf. Ay, traitor, Marcius.

Cor. Marcius !

Auf. Ay, Marcius, Caius Marcius ; Dost thou think
 I'll grace thee with that robbery, thy stol'n name
 Coriolanus in Corioli ?—

You lords and heads of the state, perfidiously
 He has betray'd your business, and given up,
 For certain drops of salt, your city Rome
 (I say, your city) to his wife and mother :
 Breaking his oath and resolution, like
 A twist of rotten silk ; never admitting
 Counsel o' the war ; but at his nurse's tears
 He whin'd and roar'd away your victory ;
 That pages blush'd at him, and men of heart
 Look'd wondering each at other.

Cor. Hear'st thou, Mars ?—

Auf. Name not the god, thou boy of tears.—

Cor. Ha !

Auf. No more ^s.

^s *Auf. No more.*] This should rather be given to the *first lord*.
 It was not the business of *Aufidius* to put a stop to the altercation. TYRWHITT.

Cor. Measureless liar, thou hast made my heart
Too great for what contains it. Boy ! O slave !—
Pardon me, lords, 'tis the first time that ever
I was forc'd to scold. Your judgments, my grave lords,
Must give this cur the lie : and his own notion,
(Who wears my stripes imprest upon him ; that
Must bear my beating to his grave) shall join
To thrust the lie unto him.

1 Lord. Peace, both, and hear me speak.

Cor. Cut me to pieces, Volces, men and lads,
Stain all your edges in me.—Boy ! False hound !
If you have writ your annals true, 'tis there,
That, like an eagle on a dove-cote, I
Flutter'd your Volces in Corioli :
Alone I did it.—Boy !

Auf. Why, noble lords,
Will you be put in mind of his blind fortune,
Which was your shame, by this unholy braggart,
'Fore your own eyes and ears ?

All Con. Let him die for't.

All People. Tear him to pieces, do it presently.

[*The Croud speak promiscuously.*]

He kill'd my son,—My daughter,—He kill'd my
cousin Marcus.

He kill'd my father.—

2 Lord. Peace, ho ;—no outrage ;—peace.—
The man is noble, and ⁶ his fame folds in
This orb o' the earth : His last offences to us
Shall have judicious hearing.—Stand, Aufidius,
And trouble not the peace.

Cor. O, that I had him,
With six Aufidiuses, or more, his tribe,
To use my lawful sword !

Auf. Insolent villain !

⁶ ——— his fame folds in

This orb o' the earth : ———]

His fame overspreads the world. JOHNSON.

All Con. Kill, kill, kill, kill, kill him.

[*Aufidius and the Conspirators draw, and kill Marcius, who falls, and Aufidius stands on him.*]

Lords. Hold, hold, hold, hold.

Auf. My noble masters, hear me speak.

1 Lord. O Tullus,—

2 Lord. Thou hast done a deed, whereat
Valour will weep.

3 Lord. Tread not upon him.—Masters all, be quiet;
Put up your swords.

Auf. My lords, when you shall know, (as in this rage,
Provok'd by him, you cannot) the great danger
Which this man's life did owe you, you'll rejoice
That he is thus cut off. Please it your honours
To call me to your senate, I'll deliver
Myself your loyal servant, or endure
Your heaviest censure.

1 Lord. Bear from hence his body,
And mourn you for him : let him be regarded
As the most noble corse, that ever herald
Did follow to his urn.

2 Lord. His own impatience
Takes from Aufidius a great part of blame.
Let's make the best of it.

Auf. My rage is gone,
And I am struck with sorrow.—Take him up :—
Help, three o' the chiefest soldiers ; I'll be one.—
Beat thou the drum, that it speak mournfully :—
Trail your steel pikes.—Though in this city he
Hath widow'd and unchilded many a one,
Which to this hour bewail the injury,
Yet he shall have a noble memory⁷.—
Affist.

[*Exeunt, bearing the body of Marcius. A dead
march sounded.*]

⁷ ———a noble memory.] *Memory for Memorial.*] So, in *As you
Like It* :

—O, you *Memory*
Of old fir Rowland ! STEEVENS.

THE tragedy of *Coriolanus* is one of the most amusing of our author's performances. The old man's merriment in Menenius ; the lofty lady's dignity in Volumnia ; the bridal modesty in Virgilia ; the patrician and military haughtiness in Coriolanus ; the plebeian malignity and tribunitian insolence in Brutus and Sicinius, make a very pleasing and interesting variety : and the various revolutions of the hero's fortune fill the mind with anxious curiosity. There is, perhaps, too much bustle in the first act, and too little in the last. JOHNSON.

END OF VOLUME THE SEVENTH.



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